

(No. 78.)



1896.

SESSION II.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

THE AUSTRALASIAN RIGHTS PURCHASE
BILL, 1896, (PRIVATE):

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE, WITH MINUTES OF
PROCEEDINGS, EVIDENCE, AND APPENDICES.

Brought up by Mr. Urquhart, September 29, 1896, and ordered by the House of
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SELECT COMMITTEE appointed, on the 22nd day of September, 1896, to consider and report upon "The Australasian Rights Purchase Bill, 1896," (Private).

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. W. T. H. BROWN.
MR. GILL.
MR. HAMILTON.

MR. LEATHAM.
MR. URQUHART. (*Mover.*)

DAYS OF MEETING.

Wednesday, September 23; Thursday, September 24; Friday, September 25.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Mr. E. C. Mace; Mr. J. B. Hickson; Mr. W. H. Palmer.

R E P O R T.

Your Committee having taken evidence in support of the allegations contained in the Preamble of the Bill, have the honor to report that the said Preamble has been proved to their satisfaction.

Your Committee having agreed that the Preamble should stand part of the Bill, then entered into consideration of the several Clauses, and made certain alterations, additions, and amendments, which are embodied in an amended Bill attached to this Report.

Your Committee have the honor to present the Bill, as amended, for the favourable consideration of your Honorable House.

D. C. URQUHART, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room, House of Assembly,
September 25, 1896.*

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

No. 1.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1896.

The Committee met at 2 o'clock.

Present—Mr Urquhart and Mr. Leatham.

At 2:45, a quorum not being present, the Committee adjourned until 11 o'clock to-morrow.

No. 2.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1896.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

Present—Mr. Urquhart, Mr. Gill, Mr. Leatham.

Mr. Urquhart was appointed Chairman.

The Chairman laid upon the Table the Petition praying for leave to bring in the Bill. (Appendix A.)

Resolved, That the Petitioners be heard by Counsel in support of the Bill.

Accordingly, Mr. V. L. Butler appeared as Counsel and addressed the Committee in support of the Bill.

Resolved, That Mr. W. H. Palmer, C.E., be admitted during the examination of witnesses.

Mr. Butler handed in the Evidence taken before the Select Committee on the Australasian Rights Purchase Act, 1894. (Appendix B.)

Mr. W. T. H. Brown took his seat.

Mr. E. C. Mace was called in and examined.

Mr. Mace withdrew.

Mr. Walter Harcourt Palmer, Consulting Engineer of the Australasian Rights Company, was called and examined.

Mr. J. B. Hickson, Legal Manager of various Mining Companies, was called and examined.

Mr. Hickson withdrew.

Mr. Palmer was recalled and further examined.

Counsel withdrew.

The Committee then entered into consideration of the Bill.

Preamble agreed to.

The Committee adjourned till 11 o'clock to-morrow.

No. 3.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1896.

The Committee met at noon.

Members present—Mr. Urquhart (Chairman), Mr. Gill, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. W. T. H. Brown, and Mr. Leatham.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Committee proceeded to further consider the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3—

Amendments made (Mr. Urquhart), by striking out Sub-sections 1 and 2—"From the Heemskirk River a quantity not exceeding One hundred sluice-heads, with a fall or head of not exceeding Two hundred feet at the point of intake. 2. From the first and second branches of the Little Henty River a quantity not exceeding One hundred sluice-heads with a fall or head of not exceeding Two hundred feet."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 7 agreed to.

Clause 8—

Amendment made (Mr. Hamilton), page 2, line 50, after "rivers," by inserting "unpolluted."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 12 agreed to.

The Chairman submitted Draft Report, which was read and agreed to.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

EVIDENCE.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1896.

E. C. MACE, *called and examined.*

1. *By Mr. V. L. Butler.*—Your name is E. C. Mace? Yes.
2. And you are Manager of the Silver Queen Mining Company at Mount Zeehan, and of other Companies? Yes.
3. You know the Company called the Australasian Rights Purchase Company, and you know the objects of the Bill before the Committee? Yes.
4. You know also that their works were in progress some time since? Yes, I do.
5. Now turning to your own Company, the Silver Queen, what amount of horse power could that Company take from the Electrical Company if it were in operation? Well, I had a long talk yesterday with one of our Directors who is an Engineer, and he considered the nominal horse power we should require would amount to over 250, or from that to 300 horse power nominal: of course the actual horse power would not be so great.
6. You are dealing with steam now? Yes, with steam.
7. And to get that nominal horse power you have to work up to a higher rate? Yes, certainly we should have to put on extra boilers to get it up.
8. And on the introduction of the electrical works would you discard the machinery now in use? We certainly should as far as the Directors have seen, because the firewood question is getting so very serious. I think as the boilers are worked out we should take on enough electrical power to work the engines, instead of renewing boilers.
9. Is there any chance of the boilers being renewed? Yes, some of them must be shortly.
10. What is the price of timber for firewood? We had it at 5s. a ton at one time, now it is 8s. 4d. per ton, and up to 9s. It has been increasing in price regularly, and now we hardly expect to get our next contracts even at 9s. a ton.
11. Then there is a difficulty in getting timber? Oh, yes, great difficulty; we have to put wooden tramways into the bush for a long distance to get it. We have had to get it from as far as Dundas. It has come from there to Zeehan, and thence along the Zeehan tram to the mine.
12. Is the firewood of an inferior or a superior kind? Well, the manuka is fair, but we have to go to Dundas to get that. The myrtle and gum is very inferior wood; we have to get manuka to burn with it, and it is being used up rapidly.
13. You have, I believe, consulted with the manager lately about the difficulty in getting timber? Yes, I wrote and asked him if he could put down a tramway to reach a new bed of timber I had heard of. He writes that it would not be of much use, as the timber is of poor quality, half shell wood, the heart destroyed, and poor for steam purposes. We could only take the small timber.
14. With firewood at 9s. per ton, I presume the outside price is 9s.? We have been paying 9s. a ton.
15. And what would that make the cost per horse power per year for steam? Well, I have not a positive idea, not being an engineer, but I believe about £60 to £70 per horse power, if not more.
16. Are there many mines at Zeehan—from your experience as far as you know Zeehan—are there many mines that would be wanting electrical power should it be established? I know Zeehan well, and I believe there are a great many mines that would take the advantage of electrical power when established, especially on the plains where there is not much firewood, mines like the Silver King and others, which have been paying much higher rates for wood than we have. Of course the cost of their power runs up to a much higher figure.
17. You know the mines—the Silver King, the Western, the Comet, the Montague—would they all require electrical power to develop their properties? I think so; and then a great many of the mines are erecting or about to erect concentrating works, and for that purpose they will need far greater power than is wanted for merely winding or pumping purposes.
18. Is your mine a wet or a dry mine? Well, it is drier than some of the Dundas mines.
19. So that they would want heavier machinery to work their mines? Yes.
20. The shafts that are put down, what amount of machine power would each shaft be likely to require as it is being sunk? Well, it would be difficult to gauge each shaft as to that. We have shafts that would require from 60 to 70 horse-power, to sink others would want about 40 horse power till they get down; then I believe it would take about 60 horse-power to work the engines. It took 60 horse-power fully to sink each shaft on our mine.
21. *To Mr. W. T. H. Brown.*—Have you any recollection as to the depth represented by that expenditure? About 100 feet.
22. *To Mr. Butler.*—If a shaft was sunk to any depth at all, you would have an engineer to drive? Yes, we had to use one at first for pumping and winding, but when we got down 100 feet then we had to put on another engine for winding.
23. What I understand about the shaft is, that when you come to sink it 60 horse-power would be wanted to work the shaft, and that would wind and pump down to 100 feet of depth, but after that depth you would require a winding engine in addition? Yes, when we get below 100 feet we require more power.
24. Have you seen any plant of the kind smaller than 60 horse-power? Yes, we had one in the Silver Queen No. 1 Block, but it was a failure, and ruined the company. In the New Great Eastern they had the same plant, and the same thing happened—they failed to get down owing to the rush of water. It could not be kept down with the appliances, and they had tanks bailing too. That shows two instances of failure through want of power.
25. I have before me a list of mines and the horse-power required to work them. Many of them are known to you. I will read the list:—The Adelaide mine, at Dundas: that mine is put down at 200 horse-power? Yes.

26. The Bon Accord, 100 horse-power; Bell's Reward, Zeehan, 100 horse-power; Colonel North, 100 horse-power; the Comstock, 100 horse-power. Then we have the Comet, Dundas—that is a wet mine, I believe? Yes, that is a wet mine. Then they are erecting concentrators, and they will need at least 60 horse-power more.

27. Then the estimate of 100 horse-power is under the mark? Yes, I think so.

28. Then we have Curtin and Davis, 100 horse-power; Curtin-Davis Extended, 100 horse-power; South-Western Curtin-Davis, 100 horse-power; the Despatch, Zeehan, 100 horse-power; Fahl Ore, Dundas, 100 horse-power; the Meteor Lyell, 200 horse-power; then the Mount Reid, 300 horse-power—that is a large mine, I believe? It is not so large now, but the workings are increasing.

29. Then we have the New Oceana, 100 horse-power, and the Oonah, 100 horse-power—is that too much for the Oonah? I don't think so. They will want concentrators immediately, and they will need light as well.

30. What about the generation of the light? They would need from 60 to 100 horse-power, 10 horse-power for lighting, and their difficulty would be got over,—there would be a great saving in candles and kerosene.

31. Then we have the Renison Bell, 100 horse-power, the Rich Prospecting Association, 100 horse-power; the Silver King, 100 horse-power; and the Silver Queen, 350 horse-power. You run trams, I believe, and they would be run by electricity? Yes, we will want more tram-power, but principally more light and power for pumping.

32. Then there is the Silver Queen Extended, 300 horse-power; South Curtin and Davis, 100 horse-power; South Mount Reid, 100 horse-power; Hercules, 100 horse-power; Balsen Hercules, 100 horse-power; Hercules East and Extended, 100 horse-power each; North Hercules, 100 horse-power; Hercules Proprietary, 100 horse-power; and the Western, 300 horse-power—that is a very large margin, is it not? No, they will want 300 horse-power, quite as much as the Queen.

33. Then we have the Western Extended, 100 horse-power; Owen Meredith, 150 horse-power; Success, 150 horse-power; and then for tramways generally we have stated here 1900 horse-power: they are rather extensive, are they not? Yes, there are likely to be a great many. The Western and the Silver Crown have tramways now, and the Oonah will have to put one in presently.

34. You will notice we have omitted the Junction mine and others working now? Yes, there are other mines working that you have not mentioned. I don't know the extent of the workings of some of those you have named.

35. Now turning to the lighting of the Town of Zeehan, how many public-houses are there in Zeehan? I can't say positively, about 19 I should think—quite that.

36. I have been told they will require about 60 lights each, and that Anderson's Hotel has 100 rooms? No. I think Clarke's is the largest, it has 60 or 70 rooms; I can't say positively, but I have heard Clarke's is the largest.

37. Well, would 60 lights be too much on the average for each of the hotels? I can't say for each, but it would not be too much for a number of them.

38. Do you know the *Launceston Hotel*? Yes, very well.

39. That hotel takes sixty lights: how would that compare? I don't know; they might be very lavish with the light.

40. Take the general average, would thirty be far under the mark? Yes, thirty would be quite under the mark.

41. And what about lighting the mines—how many lights do you use? Between fifty and sixty. We have power for eighty lights, and we intend to increase to the extent of our limits,—in fact the lamps are ordered, and we shall have eighty lights in a few months.

42. Your dynamos are driven by steam at present? Yes; and it takes over ten horse-power.

43. And even at that does the use of the light make any saving? Yes, a tremendous saving.

44. And gives a better light? Yes; the Manager is greatly pleased with the improvement. For the concentration works it is necessary, candles and kerosene give a miserable light. It effects a saving in other parts than the concentration works. We should put the light down below in the workings if we had a cheaper means of getting it on. We should then have it in the main drives and in the cross-cuts, that is where the timbering is permanent; there it would effect a great saving.

45. From the water leased to M'Lean's Company—from 350 to 360 horse-power is what they expect to get—do you think 350 horse-power would do for the requirements of Zeehan in regard to motive power if they also work the light? Oh dear no.

46. Then you think there is room for two companies? Decidedly.

47. And you would have no objection to another company coming into the field? I don't think so; the mines are increasing; the Western could take it all; they use more lights than we do.

48. Then if M'Lean's Company is going to light the Town of Zeehan, the 250 horse-power they would have left and available for motive power and lighting the mines would be as a drop in the bucket? I think so.

49. Then you think there is no chance of M'Lean's Company providing Zeehan with electrical power sufficient for its requirements? It is not possible, according to the nominal horse-power stated by you.

50. And from what you know is being used now? That is so.

51. To Mr. W. T. H. Brown.—There is still a lot of timber available on the Coast, is there not, that would pay if taken to Zeehan? Yes.

52. As to the price of firewood, do you think it will increase in price for some time to come? I think it will. Our manager doubts if the contractors will fulfil the last contracts, and he is holding back 25 per cent. of the payments. In some instances many large contracts have been taken at 9s. per ton.

53. Is there not some about the railway line that could be made available? Yes. We brought some from the neighbourhood of the Argenton at a cost of 7s. 6d. and 8s. a ton. We call for contracts, if parties thought they could do it at a cheaper rate they would certainly tender. Some of our contracts were for 8s. 4d. to 9s. and a little over. There is a great deal of timber in the Dundas district, but it will be all needed at Dundas for the mines there. We did bring a good deal down the line from Dundas, but that is a long time ago; we have stopped now. We bring wood in with wooden tramways, but

it is bad timber. Half the trees we dare not cut down, that is, timber that is of use for mining purposes. We must conserve the mining timber as much as possible, as it is very expensive.

54. About the electric light, would you not want a large amount of light below ground? Yes.

55. And you use candles? Yes.

56. How do you account for this when you have dynamos,—why do they not leave the old system off now? They are leaving it off. Our manager expects to put a cable down under the roof where there are permanent trams. The wires will be fixed between the timbers, and we will put glow lamps, the ordinary electric lights, under the roof to light the drives and workings. We have fifty lights going now; with power for eighty, and we have ordered extra lamps now to fit in. It takes 10 horse-power to drive the dynamo, that is about 20 horse-power nominal.

57. In regard to the water required under Clause 3 with reference to effective horse-power, I suppose that is a matter for expert evidence? Yes, that will be given by expert evidence. I could only give you information about the number of sluice-heads and so forth.

WALTER H. PALMER, *examined by Mr. Butler.*

58. Your name is Walter Harcourt Palmer? Yes.

59. And you are a civil engineer? Yes.

60. And engineer to the Tasmanian Water Power Company formed under the Australasian Rights Purchase Act? Yes.

61. You have read the evidence given in April, 1894, on the occasion of the extension of time given to the Company in the last Act? Yes.

62. And is that evidence correctly set out in the Report of the Select Committee? Yes.

(Mr. Butler put in evidence, Paper No. 40, Parliamentary Journals, 1894.)

63. Do you know the reason why this Company did not carry out the works provided for by this Act? Because they could not get on to the ground. The ground was in the possession of the contractor, and the Company could not go on the ground until a law-suit which was pending over it was settled, and they were enabled to get the contractor off the ground.

64. How long did the law-suit last? From 1892 to the latter end of February in this year.

65. And is it settled? Yes.

66. And in favour of the Company? Yes, in favour of the Company.

67. The contractor's name was Wadey? Yes.

68. In the beginning of last year, in January or February, do you know if the Company had representatives over here? Yes, it would be this year; they had the Company's engineer—I mean the Company in England, which was represented by Mr. Karlbaum. I may mention that when the banks went smash, several thousands of pounds of this Company's money was locked up in the banks, and, in fact, are not yet realised. The Company, however, had legal power over the shareholders, all of whom were strong men, and they were prepared to enforce their calling-power. The Company embraced Mr. Chapman, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hall, and others, all very rich men, and it had calling power up to £17,500. They have in the bank from £8000 to £9000 locked up. They did not want to make a call, and the English Company said that if they would give them a certain proportion—that is, a certain interest on their money—and pay it back when the money was released from the banks, they would find the money to carry on the Company. Mr. Karlbaum's Company said they would find the money at six per cent., provided we handed over to them the bank deposit receipts. That was the arrangement made, provided that this Government would allow an extension of time to carry out the works between February of this year and the time the Bill expired. Of course it was no use starting unless we could get an extension of time. The Tasmanian Water Company then took proceedings to get the extension, and Karlbaum went to England and, unfortunately, died there. Messrs. M'Kenzie and Chapman and other members of the syndicate were then prepared to carry out the works on these lines. In any case the banks are releasing the money now, and even if they don't do so the Company is in a position to compel the calls to be made and to be paid. Under these circumstances the Company is in a good position to carry out the works if Parliament grants the extension of time.

69. Some calls have been paid, I believe? Oh, yes, all calls made have been paid up in full.

70. Is this a limited company? Yes, they can enforce payment of calls.

71. But is it a limited company under the Limited Liability Act? Yes.

72. Do you know the amount that has been expended on the proposal? Yes, between £6000 and £7000.

73. And the books of the Company are produced showing that expenditure? Yes.

74. Did Mr. Mackenzie, the engineer, come and report on the project? Yes, he reported for the English syndicate.

75. What sort of a report did he give? He told them they could not get a finer investment. The report was a thorough one, and he told them they could not get a better investment. The works would have been carried out at once if the Minister could have granted an extension of time. Mr. M'Cartney came over and asked the Minister for the extension, but of course he said he could not grant it. That was this year.

76. Then this Company is still in existence? The Company has never stopped—they could not get on to the ground until the settlement of the law-suit with the contractor; now all they want to go on with the work is the extension of time asked for.

77. Then the £6000 or £7000 spent is all out-of-pocket expenses; Oh, that is all gone; we have from £2000 to £3000 worth of work done, we have a conservation dam and the pipes on the ground, and the Pelton wheels are also on the ground ready to be erected.

78. Is there any more machinery to go there? Yes, the electrical machinery is all contracted for and partly paid for. The original price was £4800, but they have doubled the amount of the horse-power, and so have doubled the amount of the purchase money. The English Company have had to hold the

machinery ever since Wadey took possession of the ground, because they were not going to put their machinery on to land they could not legally get on to.

79. I put the list of the Mining Companies in the district into your hands, showing an average requirement of from 100 horse-power up to from 200 to 300 horse-power for each mine. From your experience would you think it an out of the way estimate? No, I think it a low estimate.

80. Is it under the mark all through? Yes, I think so. 7230 horse-power is the total. That is low for such a large district. It is low all through, and it has not taken in Tyndall, or any Lyell mines or Rosebery.

81. No it has not taken in Tyndall. Should your Company go on, how far could you take the electric power? 450 miles is the recognised medium distance at present.

82. And what is the loss in that distance? They lose about 12 per cent. electrical energy in 450 miles.

83. That is not much? No, not where the plant is worked by water power; it practically means the loss of the power of a little water.

84. You have read the evidence of the witnesses before the Committee on M'Clellan's Bill? Yes, I have.

85. Did you notice that they have 350 horse-power at Zeehan, and that after they have supplied the light to the town there would be from 100 to 120 horse-power available for motive power? Yes.

86. Would that be sufficient for Zeehan? No, of course it would not.

87. Is there any chance of this company being able to supply motive power to the exclusion of M'Clellan's company? No, there is no chance of the two companies supplying the requirements of the district. Our company has not 10 per cent. of the capital that would be required to be put into electrical power to supply the Zeehan and Dundas fields. No company at present in existence would be able to supply the requirements of these fields. It would take a matter of from £200,000 to £300,000 capital to send enough electrical power to supply these fields.

88. Would there be water power enough? There is heaps of water power. It would not matter about where they take the water from. If they object to our Company taking the water from the Pieman River, we will be glad to let them take the first pick. It is water still if we take it along for half a mile and then pour it back into the river again. The amount of water-power this Company asks for is a mere drop in the bucket—you could not notice it. We will go anywhere for our supply.

89. What do you do with the water when you get it? Pass it through the turbines and turn it back into the river in an unpolluted state.

90. According to the Bill as now drawn, is this Company asking for more water-power than they were under the old Bill? We are asking for the same power, but it is put in a different way.

91. At whose suggestion? Well, practically at the suggestion of Mr. Belstead and Mr. McKenzie. They both agreed that sluice-head is rather too indefinite a term for the people to understand who would be asked to put their money into projects of the kind. 24·168 is the water in a sluice-head, and the people don't understand it; but if you take it into horse-power it is universally understood as 33·000 lbs. raised one foot high in a minute, and if you tell them your water carries so many horse-power they understand you at once. Hydraulic engineering is not in a very prominent state except in Switzerland, and its terms are not understood.

92. Sluice-heads are frequently different in different countries, are they not? They are seldom the same; they are double in New Zealand what they are here.

93. As to underground lighting for the mines? We supply it. I put up the Hillgrove and Armidale electric works since I left here.

94. Are they now running? Yes, and they are a great success.

95. And appreciated by the mining community? Well, they work their mines at a cost of from 30 to 40 per cent. less than by steam power.

96. Has the Company been a success? Yes; and every penny they get has been put into new machinery, and they have now had to borrow £60,000 in England for new machinery. When we went there the mining industry was flagging, it cost so much for fuel, and the timber was running out.

97. What was the power used? Water; we run it through a Pelton wheel; we used the whole river.

99. Any objection by the inhabitants on that account? No, of course not. We killed an eel or two now and then when they got into the wheel: that was all the harm that was done.

100. Was there more water-power available there than in Zeehan? Oh no, we had to go to great expense, and to dam the rivers. We had to make the water-power, in fact; and, in doing that, it does good to the inhabitants, because we conserve the water for them as well as for ourselves. No possible objection could be raised to that.

101. Now, as to underground lighting, tell us about that? Yes, we can light all the mines in Zeehan underground. At Broken Hill we have lighted, not all the mines, but some of them.

102. There must be a great saving, or they would not take to electric lighting? That is the inference, or the number of mines using electricity would not keep on increasing.

103. It gives a better light than candles or kerosene? Well, if the Chairman will allow me, I will give an amusing incident about that. The Baker Creek gold mine was lighted by electricity, and the manager was growling every day about the light. They had all the lamps in position all right, and the light should have been perfect, but still there was growling generally. I went to the manager at 3 o'clock one afternoon and gave him notice that I was not going to light to-night as the machinery required repair, and he had better get his kerosene lamps and candles ready. He said "All right," and he lit up with kerosene and candles, of course. I went down to see the effect, and the first thing was that the first shift of men refused to work because they were in the dark. It was so different from the electric light that the manager was glad to come to me and say "Can't you let the light on?" I said "Yes," and then I turned on the switch—there had been no repairs to make at all and the effect was startling. It is so different. It makes the sheds where the men are working as light as day; and for working the concentrators it is absolutely necessary to have the electric light.

104. Well, coming back to the Australasian Rights Purchase Company having the power to take water subject to regulations to be made by the Governor in Council, which means the Minister, does that give the Governor in Council power to control the amount of water you shall take? Of course it does. If we attempt to interfere with anyone's rights, the Ministry can immediately prevent it.

105. Then that clause is for the protection of the public? It is certainly not for the protection of the Company.

106. The plans would be submitted to the Minister for approval? Yes.

107. Has that been done up to now, and has he approved? Yes, he has approved.

108. As to the term required for the completion of the works, the term asked for is two years. Do you think you can do the work in that time? I think it is rather quick work. It took me two years and two months as hard as I could work to complete the plant at Hillgrove. To complete the works in that time is a large order. How is it defined?

109. To the satisfaction of the Minister. The thing is, what will he require? It is a pretty large order.

The Chairman.—I presume when you first supply power the works would be considered finished— from what time do you mean the two years to commence? Of course it would be construed reasonably.

110. From the completion of the Act.

111. *By the Chairman.*—That is under Section 10? Yes.

112. *By Mr. Butler.*—What time did it take you to get the works into operation at Hillgrove of course Zeehan is differently situated. Is there a probability of getting the work done in the time so as to supply some power? Oh, certainly, some power will be supplied in that time.

113. Of course the Company will want to get returns as soon as possible? Of course, the money will be lying idle until they can get to work.

114. Is there any other point on which you would like to make a communication to the Committee? The only other point is that negotiations are actually completed, I believe, between Jamieson and the Western and Silver Queen Companies, who want to take the power. They are anxious to get the power and the Company is anxious to supply it, and I feel sure it is now only a matter of giving the Company the extension asked for to ensure their carrying out the works properly. As Mr. Butler pointed out, they have spent a great deal of money on the ground; they do not want their £1000 deposit back again, but only to be allowed to carry out the work which they have been, I think, foolishly fighting over.

115. The £1000 is now deposited with Government, is it not? Yes.

116. And it would not be unreasonable to ask them to give it back again? It has been done in other cases, and I presume they would not refuse if we asked for it.

117. But you don't want to ask for it, you only want to go on and carry out the work? That is all.

118. You have read the Montagu-Zeehan electric Light Bill? Yes.

119. The promoters say they can't increase their works to any great extent; that being so, they will never be able to supply Zeehan with electric power? Certainly not. I may tell you that a short time ago Mr. McLean came to Melbourne and tried to induce us to amalgamate his Company with the Tasmanian Water Power Company. They found on enquiring as to the minimum power at McLean's Falls that there was not sufficient power to make it worth their while to amalgamate, and so they declined.

120. You did not want to alter your Company? No.

121. *By Mr. W. T. H. Brown.*—I call your attention to Clause 3. Under that Clause you seem to be asking first for a 100 sluice-heads from the Heemskirk River; and in the second sub-section sufficient water to produce 200 theoretical horse-power, and in the third sub-section four times that amount from the Pieman? Yes, the rivers are bigger. The clause gives the horse-power from the Heemskirk to start with. The maximum theoretical horse-power to be taken from that River will represent 100 sluice-heads, each equal to 24·168 cubic feet of water per minute; multiplied by 200 feet for the fall or head, that would represent about 870 horse-power at the falls—that is, theoretical horse-power, or about 435 electrical horse-power delivered in Zeehan. That is, the electrical horse-power derived from the Heemskirk River will be about 435, the same will be obtained from the Little Henty, and from the Pieman we will get four times that amount, which would represent a total of from 1700 to 1800 horse-power. We shall get about 2600 horse-power from all three rivers.

122. Practically you want 3000 horse-power—that is what you ask for? About that, yes. I may explain this, that the water will be paid for at per sluice-head, and we don't get it without expense. At Heemskirk we shall have to conserve the water by putting up a dam before we can get the water or pay the Government. It is going to waste now. We have, in fact, to make it ourselves, and then pay the Government for it.

123. When the last Bill was before us we heard a good deal about voltage and amperes, and I was given to understand that a horse-power electrical was more powerful than a horse-power obtained by steam? No, that is not it. It is the same, but an electrical horse-power will do more work. It can jump about from spot to spot, and is always where it is required. If it is wanted at one point it concentrates itself on it, and then it jumps to other places where you may require it. Steam horse-power only works at one point at one time, and the boiler must be in its place and ready whether the power is immediately required or not. With electrical power, if you are done with it for the time you simply turn a switch and stop it. When you are done with it at one place and want it anywhere else you have merely to turn off a switch. It is always at work somewhere where required. An electrical horse-power is the same power as 33,000 lbs. raised one foot in one minute of time.

124. You are not asking in this Bill for areas for dams? No, the old Bill gives us that; those are already granted.

125. Do you interfere with the rights of any one else should your operations go on? No, the Bill prevents that—all existing rights are preserved under all circumstances.

126. Of course under the old Bill you paid the Government the same for the water as they do in the mining districts? Just the same. If we take it the miners don't lose it and the Government get paid all the same. If you took all the water on the West Coast the miners would be glad you took it. They would rather pay for the power if they want it.

127. Can you tell me why it is that those having dynamos on the West Coast don't use the electric light in the mines? They are all short of power, and many are working with half power at present. It is preventing new mines from being practically developed, this want of power. I know that tramways would be put up in many cases, but that they are frightened on account of the cost of fuel. Many would go on if they could get power.

128. Can they drive tramways with wood fuel? They could do so.

129. What would be the expense? The expense with fuel at 9s. per ton would be about £120 per horse-power per annum; that is about the same price as it would be with coal at £2 10s. per ton. The price of wood fuel at 9s. per ton is just equal to that of coal at £2 10s. per ton, in fact the coal is rather cheaper.

130. And in the event of the passing of this Bill it is *bonâ fide* that your Company intend going on with this work? They instruct me so, and I believe it is to be so. I can tell you that when I went to Melbourne, about the time of the law-suit, they discharged me there because I told them they were simply fooling everybody by not going on with the work. They discharged me, but I was subpoenaed as a witness and gave evidence. When the case was finished they sent for me again, and I said they had been fooling, and I advised them to pay Wadey, the contractor, his £200, and go on with the work; but Mr. Chapman is a strong-backed man, and if he thinks a demand is unfair he would sooner fight and lose than pay up. I think it would have been better if they had paid the £200 and gone on.

131. Are they willing and ready to go on if this Bill is passed? Yes; and, if they did not, I could put together another Company in twenty-four hours that would be glad to carry out the work. I may say I am the leading shareholder in the Company, and have paid the largest amount of calls; and I am most anxious that the work should go on.

132. *By Mr. Gill.*—There is an idea abroad that you are going to take the whole of the water from these rivers, and that you will deprive others of the water they might require? You can put this in the Bill if you like,—that not more than three-fourths of the water in any river shall be taken.

133. I want to show them that the water is merely taken from the river and then dropped in again? Yes, that is it; it is only taken once for a short distance and is then returned to the river again in an unpolluted state by the nearest cuts as quick as we can get it.

134. And if you wanted to take it all you could not do so? Of course not. There is no place for a river to run except in its own valley. Where are you going to take it from or to? The Almighty has looked after that: it must go back into the stream. It is owing to the points in your Standing Orders and the breadth of information that has to be given in the advertisements of private companies that misunderstandings arise: it is not to be wondered at. The Parliamentary Standing Orders are so complex that if you don't ask for about ten times more than you want in your advertisement you are not sure of much.

135. *By the Chairman.*—You pay a price in return for the water? Yes.

136. That is, on the 100 sluice-heads, and you are paying now for the water? Yes, we always have to pay for it as we use it.

(Mr. Butler explained that the water had to be paid for under the Mining Acts.)

137. *By the Chairman.*—Yes, that is in the old Bill. You pay for any water you use in the same way as other persons do under the Mining Acts? Yes; and at the same price.

J. B. HICKSON, called and examined by Mr. Butler.

138. Your name is J. B. Hickson? It is.

139. And you are a Legal Manager of Mining Companies on the West Coast and elsewhere? Yes.

140. Have you any knowledge of the timber question at Zeehan—is timber cheap, or is it getting more expensive? It is getting more expensive every day, and more difficult to procure.

141. Were you at Zeehan recently? Yes, during the week before last.

142. What did you notice in regard to the timber question? Well, I was rather struck on noticing that in the hotels they were burning coal instead of wood. They used to have grand wood fires, but I was told that the timber is becoming so scarce and expensive that they find it more economical to burn Newcastle coal.

143. Have you any idea of the cost—did you question them on that? No, but I can tell you the small coal we get for the Zeehan tramway engine costs us 32s. 6d. per ton at Strahan. They were burning larger coal with a little wood.

144. Do you think £2 10s. a ton retail at Zeehan would be too much for coal—would you be astonished to hear it was that price? No, I should not wonder; I dare say it would come to that for household coal.

145. You know the mines on Zeehan would a Tramway to each mine be an advantage? Yes, there are very few mines that could do without it, there is no possibility of making roads there that would stand the traffic.

146. *By Mr. W. T. H. Brown.*—Most of them would arrange to get tramways on? Most Companies would try to make arrangements for them.

147. Have you any idea as to what number of horse-power would be required for most of the tramways, I mean for ordinary tramways—from 50 to 100 horse-power, do you think? Well, that would depend on the traffic, but 50 horse-power would be the minimum.

148. You know the Mount Reid mine—I believe you are the manager here? Yes, I am local secretary at Hobart.

149. Are the workings extensive at that mine? They are becoming more extensive every day, and will become very extensive, I think.

150. Would 350 horse-power be more than would be required at that mine? In the near future I should think 350 horse-power would be a minimum, but I am not an engineer.

151. From the pay sheets, reports, and otherwise you can tell the progress of the mine? Yes, but I can only give a layman's opinion.

152. You are manager of the Silver Queen Extended—is that mine working? By tribute parties, yes.

153. Are there many shafts on the mine? Only two at present are being worked, but a number of other shafts have been and will be sunk.

154. Have you any idea as to the class of engine each shaft would require—I mean as to power? I should think it would take from 60 to 70 horse-power per shaft at least.

155. That would not be an unreasonable amount of power to say? I should think that amount of power would be required for shallow shafts the deeper they get the more power is required.

156. You are manager of the Rich Prospecting Association's mine? Yes.

157. Is that a mine that could be worked with electrical motive power? I should think so.

158. And would that power be cheaper than the present means of working? It is now worked by man power only; I should think so. It will be difficult to get the stuff away from this mine. It is on the bank of the Ring River. When you come out of the workings you could jump into the river.

159. And that mine would take a large amount of horse-power? Yes; it will want a large amount of power.

160. Now, you know the Anderson mine. You are the Manager—would it want a considerable amount of power? Yes, it would want very efficient machinery, because there is a creek which percolates through the company's ground. The cost of working would, perhaps, be more than ordinary wet mines.

161. You are manager of the Zeehan Tramway Company? I am the Secretary.

162. If electrical motive power was offered, your company would be glad to take it, would you not? That would depend upon the terms. If it were cheaper than to burn coal we might, of course.

163. Have you any idea of the cost per horse-power per annum on the West Coast? That is a question I would not like to undertake to answer, not being a professional man.

164. On the question of lighting mines, would they be all lighted by electrical power if it were cheap? If the companies could see they were getting a better light for the same or less money, they would take it and pay for it.

165. Are candles and kerosene items to be considered? Decidedly; they are a very heavy charge upon us all.

166. You have heard that a company called the McLean Company has an Act enabling them to light Zeehan by electricity? Yes, I saw that such a Bill was proposed to be passed, but I did not know the name of the company.

167. Suppose I tell you that the evidence given in favour of that company is that 350 horse-power could be guaranteed, are you of opinion that Zeehan requirements for power and light would be met by that? 350 horse-power—why one mine could do with it.

168. Then you think there is room for more than two companies? If that company can only supply 350 horse-power, then there is room for a dozen such companies.

169. Then your opinion is, from what you have seen, that there is ample room for more companies than one? Most decidedly, from what you tell me.

170. *By Mr. Gill.*—What price are your companies paying for wood? It varies according to locality. I should think I am safe in saying from 7s. or 8s. to 12s. or 14s. per ton.

171. *By Mr. W. T. H. Brown.*—An average of 8s. or 9s.? It might be; but it depends on the cartage,—that is what regulates the price.

The witness withdrew.

APPENDIX A.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Tasmanian Water Power Electric Company, Limited, a Company registered in Melbourne, in the Colony of Victoria, under "The Company's Act, 1890," and having a registered Agent and Office in Hobart, Tasmania,

SHewETH:

1. That your Petitioner is the Assignee of "The Australasian Rights Purchase Association, Limited," under the provisions of Section 75 of an Act of the Parliament of Tasmania, passed in the fifty-fifth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and of which the short title is "The Australasian Rights Purchase Act."

2. That, within three months previous to the presentation of this Petition notice of the intention of your Petitioner to apply for a private Bill was published as follows, that is to say:—

In the *Hobart Gazette* on Tuesday, the ninth day of June, 1896; Tuesday, the sixteenth day of June, 1896; Tuesday, the twenty-third day of June, 1896; and Tuesday, the thirtieth day of June, 1896.

In the *Tasmanian News*, being a public newspaper published in Hobart, on Thursday, the eleventh day of June, 1896; on Thursday, the eighteenth day of June, 1896; on Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of June, 1896; and on the second day of July, 1896.

In the *Mercury*, being a public newspaper published in Hobart, in Tasmania, on Friday, the twelfth day of June, 1896; on Friday, the nineteenth day of June, 1896; on Friday, the twenty-sixth day of June, 1896; and on Friday, the third day of July, 1896.

In the *Zeehan and Dundas Herald*, being a public newspaper published at Zeehan, in or nearest the District affected by the said Bill, on Thursday, the eleventh day of June, 1896; on Thursday, the eighteenth day of June, 1896; on Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of June, 1896, and on Thursday, the second day of July, 1896.

Which said notice contained a true statement of the general objects of the Bill as hereinafter set forth.

3. That the general objects of the said Bill are—

To extend until the 30th day of June, 1897, the time limited by an Act of the Parliament of Tasmania, passed in the fifty-seventh year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and intituled "The Australasian Rights Purchase Act, 1894," for the expenditure of the sum of Ten thousand Pounds therein mentioned upon the works which the Australasian Rights Purchase Association, Limited, are by the said Act authorised to construct:

To extend the time fixed for the completion of the said works until the thirty-first day of December, 1897 :

To take from any river or rivers in the Western Mining Division of the Colony such waters as may be required for the purposes of the said Act :

To fix the scale and mode of payment for the taking of the said waters.

The Bill also contains all the provisions necessary to enable the said Tasmanian Water Power Electric Company, Limited, to carry out the said works, and all other Clauses usual in Bills of a like nature.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays for leave to introduce the said Bill.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Dated the tenth day of July, 1896

C. W. CHAPMAN, }
W. ATTENBOROUGH, } *Directors.*
ROSS R. MACARTNEY, *Secretary.*

ROBT. JNO. ACKLAND, *Clerk, Witness to the*
Signatures of C. W. CHAPMAN, W. ATTEN-
BOROUGH, and ROSS R. MACARTNEY.



APPENDIX B.

EVIDENCE taken before the Select Committee on the Australasian Rights Purchase Act, 1894.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1894.

ROSS KENNETH MACARTNEY, *called and examined.*

1. *By Counsel, Mr. Vivian Butler.*—What is your name? Ross Kenneth Macartney.
2. What are you? I am Secretary of the Tasmanian Water Power Electric Company.
3. It is a Company formed in Melbourne to take over the rights of the Australasian Rights Purchase Association? Yes.
4. Is the Company's Registered Office in Tasmania? Yes, we are registered here, and have an agent here as well.
5. Did the Australasian Rights Purchase Association assign its rights to anyone? To Mr. Jarvey, who again assigned them to the Tasmanian Water Power Electric Company.
6. On what date? On July 3rd, 1892.
7. You remember under the principal Act £1000 was to be deposited? Yes.
8. Has that been done? Yes.
9. When? Immediately after the Bill was passed.
10. In a Bank in Tasmania? It was handed to the Treasurer of Tasmania, and I think he put it in the Commercial Bank.
11. What did the Company proceed to do then? They advertised for tenders for the plans and specifications for works on the Heemskirk River, and then let a contract to Mr. Wadey.
12. On what date? The contract was let on the 25th May, 1892.
13. As soon as the Company was in a position to carry out the work under the Bill they did so? Yes.
14. There was no time lost? Not a moment.
15. Do you know what was done under the contract? The whole of the material for the works was despatched.
16. When? In September or October, 1892. The pipes were sent away also.
17. Where were they sent to? To Strahan, to be transhipped to the Pieman; but Mr. Wadey elected to take them to Zeehan. When he got them there, he found he had to cut a track some 10 miles to get them to the ground.
18. He had to make the track? Yes, and lost a year nearly through it.
19. And all the dry weather? Yes.
20. Is the machinery bulky? Yes. Some of the pieces are from 5 to 12 feet long, and 6 feet in diameter. Some of them weigh over 4 tons. The total weight would be about 40 tons.
21. And that is already at the works? Yes.
22. In what condition is the contract now? Very much behind.
23. Whose fault is that? The contractor's. The contractor had such difficulty in getting the material on to the ground that he has made a claim against us, and we have had to go to arbitration. Mr. Ford, lately a Railway Commissioner, is the sole arbitrator.
24. How about the work already done—will Mr. Wadey hand it over to you? He will be compelled to do so. The case will be settled within a month from now, and we will then proceed at once to work.
25. Has the work been inspected by any of the Directors? Mr. Matthew Jamieson, one of the directors of the Broken Hill Mine, and a very eminent engineer, has inspected the work.
26. Is not Mr. Jamieson also a director of this Company? Yes.
27. What does he report? He reports most favourably on the scheme.
28. What does he say in regard to the work done? He is not at all satisfied with either the quality or the quantity. He points out the necessity of us taking possession of the work and finishing it; and I am certain the whole job will be handed over to him as soon as we get possession of the work from Wadey.

29. In fact, that is the intention of the Company? Yes, exactly.

30. Do you know if Mr. Jamieson did anything else while he was down at the works? He visited a number of the mines, and interviewed the managers in regard to taking power from our Company. We will be able to supply power at £20 per horse power per annum, where it now costs £75 per horse power per annum, thus cheapening the cost of mining altogether, which will be a great advantage to the whole district.

31. What success did Mr. Jamieson meet with? Very considerable success. Had Mr. Wadey completed his contract we could have sold all the power we had.

32. In that case you would have been earning a revenue now? Yes, a very considerable revenue.

33. How many companies are prepared to take the power? 6 or 7.

34. Which companies are they? All the leading companies on the field, such as the Silver Queen and Western.

35. If the works had been finished the Government would have been reaping some revenue as well as the company? Yes, this power will greatly cheapen the production of silver, which at present is mined very expensively.

36. Many of the mines that are shut down, or must shut down presently, will be able to continue working? Yes; Mr. Jamieson points that out in his report.

37. And how will it affect the outlying mines? We can supply them. We can carry the electricity any distance we please, and the heaviest bit of machinery to give 30 or 40 horse power would not weigh more than 12 cwt.

38. Is there any more work to be done on the ground? I think the dam has to be raised another 3 feet, and the pipes have to be fixed down the face of the cliff, and the Pelton wheel and the machinery fixed. The whole thing, energetically taken in hand, could be finished in two months from starting.

39. What other works are there to be done? There are tracks to be made to the various mines, and the wires carried through, and the electric machinery to be fitted. The whole thing could be done simultaneously in six months.

40. What expenditure do the directors estimate they will have to incur? We reckon a total of £11,000.

41. And you are prepared to do the work? Oh, yes, quite prepared.

42. This will provide work for many men? Yes, and cheap power will provide work for many more.

43. The construction and maintenance will also provide labour? Yes, it will all involve labour.

44. Would you have to import any electric machinery? Yes, the whole of the electric machinery has to be imported, at a cost of something like £4000.

45. Have you to pay Customs duties on this? Yes, I think there is a heavy duty on electric appliances. Mr. Lee Murray told me that the Tramway Company had to pay heavy duties on their machinery, and ours is similar to theirs.

46. In what position does your Company stand—is it a *bona fide* one? Yes, it is the best body of shareholders in the Australian Colonies.

47. Can you name any of the shareholders? Yes, there are the Messrs. Hall, and Messrs. Scarrett, Jamieson, Chapman, W. R. Wilson, and others, all men of note.

48. Do you know if the Australasian Rights Purchase Association intend any similar work? They are getting a Bill through the N.S.W. Legislature for a similar purpose.

49. What stage has electricity now reached? I think you have a good illustration of it now in your tram service. As an application of power I do not think you can get anything better. At Frankfort-on-the-Maine the power is carried 115 miles. At Rome it is carried 24 miles. Some of the people connected with this Company are now engaged in the Eveleen Tunnel Scheme, bringing 6000 horse power to Melbourne from 14 miles away, at a cost of £120,000; and Mr. Greathead, one of the first engineers in England, has reported that it is one of the most feasible schemes possible.

50. Are the same people in that scheme as are in the one now before the Committee? Yes.

51. Does the high cost per horse power at Zeehan now depend on the cost of fuel? Yes, and the poor quality of the wood. Mr. Jamieson reports that the wood is very bad, and very difficult to get owing to the nature of the country. Then again, getting boilers to some of the mines is most difficult. I have not been to the West Coast, but I believe it is a very rough country.

52. Does Mr. Jamieson report that the cost of fuel is likely to increase? He says that as the forests are cut away the cost of fuel will gradually increase.

53. And will that increase the expense per horse power? Yes.

54. If you supply the mines, will they be put to any expense? No, we fix them with transformers, as on the trams, which will be attached to their hoisting gear. Where there are fly-wheels on the gear, we simply disconnect the engine and attach a transformer to the shaft.

55. What is your opinion as to the silver there? I have not studied the subject. If silver decreases in value the mines will have to close, unless you get a cheap method of working them.

56. So in any case the introduction of cheap motive power to Zeehan would be beneficial? It must prove very beneficial.

57. You know under the Act it provides that a sum of £10,000 should be spent before the 1st March, 1894. Can you tell us how much has been expended? £4832 13s. 7d.

58. Besides the £1000 you have deposited as an earnest of good faith? Yes, and also excluding the expenses we are being put to now through the contractor being in possession, and but for which the work would have been finished. That makes a total of £5832 13s. 7d. It will take £6000 to complete the work, making £11,832 13s. 7d. It will cost between £11,000 and £12,000 to get 250 horse-power to start with, and that can be increased by a very small expenditure to 1000 horse-power.

59. In that you are only dealing with one centre? Yes, Heemskirk.

60. There are other rivers you are entitled to take water from? Yes; having perfected our system at Heemskirk, it is our intention to go on with the others.

61. Is there not some idea of supplying the mines at Dundas? Yes.

62. Your intention is to make the Company a thorough live-going concern? Yes.

63. Dundas is not too far to carry the motive power to, is it? There is such a perfect method of insulation now, that you can carry the power any distance you please.

64. At present the idea is to supply about 250 horse-power? Yes.

65. Can that be increased? Yes, by increasing the height of the dam, putting another set of pipes down the sides of the cliff, and supplying another Pelton wheel.

66. Does not Mr. Jamieson's Report recommend that the dam should be raised? Not for this particular scheme, but when this is finished.

67. As soon as you get the 250 horse-power you will be in a position to supply practically unlimited power? Yes; the unlimited supply of water that cannot be got from this particular centre can be got from other points.

68. Does Mr. Jamieson report favourably on the water? He always happened to be there when there was plenty of water; but as far as we know there is plenty of water for us by making sufficient dams and weirs to conserve it.

69. Have you got the vouchers and books of the Company with you? Yes.

70. So that the Committee can inspect them? Yes; I shall be only too glad for them to do so.

71. And you are in a position to show the actual expenditure that has taken place? Yes; I came armed with them in case the Committee wished to see them.

72. *By the Chairman.*—What was the tender for Mr. Wadey's contract? £1695. That is merely for fixing pipes, &c. in position. That is the contract there is a dispute about, and we can do nothing until it is settled. We have tenders in the office for the electric machinery, which average about £4500.

FRANCIS BELSTEAD, *called and examined.*

73. *By Counsel, Mr. Vivian Butler.*—What is your name? Francis Belstead.

74. You are Secretary of Mines? Yes.

75. Do you recollect the Australasian Rights Purchase Association obtaining a Bill in 1891? Yes.

76. I think you perused the Bill and gave evidence in regard to it before a Select Committee? Yes.

77. You remember there was £1000 to be deposited? Yes; it was deposited.

78. And were the plans to be approved by the Secretary for Mines supplied to you? Yes.

79. They showed an intention to go on with the work? Yes, so far.

80. Were any other private Bills passed about that time? Yes, a number.

81. And this Company and the Mount Lyell Company are the only ones that are carrying out the work under their respective Acts? I think so.

82. Do you know whether this Company is working on the West Coast now? They have work in progress, though at the present time I understand they are not doing anything. They have some one in charge of their plant, and work is temporarily suspended.

83. Have you received any reports as to what has been done there? I have a report from the Inspector of Mines, and he reports that 27 tons of plant has been delivered on the ground, at a cost of £325, the contract price of delivery; also, that some £500 worth of work has been done.

84. That is the work in progress? Yes.

85. Do you know how far the machinery site is from Zeehan? By track 10 miles, but through the bush eight miles.

86. That track had to be made by the contractors themselves? Yes. There is an enormous difficulty in getting material in there. I saw a portion of the machinery on the road.

87. Is any of the machinery at Zeehan? A little of it; I don't know what quantity. I have seen some of it myself.

88. Are you of opinion this Company should be encouraged to develop this work? Most assuredly.

89. It would be a vast benefit to Zeehan? Undoubtedly.

90. By supplying cheap motive power? Yes, if carried to a successful issue.

91. I suppose the mines find it imperative to keep down expenditure? Yes.

92. What is your opinion of the present depression at Zeehan: is it that the mines are a failure, or that the expenses are so far and away above the results? I think it is attributable chiefly to the low price of silver. Some of the mines show a splendid development.

93. And one want is cheaper motive power? Yes, anything that will lessen the cost of production.

94. Are the roads round Zeehan any better than they used to be? In some directions they are.

95. What are the roads to the outlying mines like? They are very little improved.

96. And it would be of benefit to give these mines power, without their having to cart heavy machinery? Of great benefit.

97. It would encourage the working of these outside mines? Yes.

98. Are any of them being worked at present? Very few.

99. Is there any opposition to this Bill at Zeehan? No.

100. You were there a few weeks ago? Yes.

101. And you would have been likely to hear of any opposition to it if there had been any? Yes, I think so.

102. Have any petitions been presented against it? No, not that I am aware of.

103. Have you read the Bill it is proposed to introduce? Yes.

104. Is it a fair Bill—is there anything in it that you can find fault with as Secretary for Mines? I see no objection to it whatever from a departmental point of view.

105. Do you know how much has been expended by this Company? I have heard, but I don't remember.

106. Does this Company seem to be in earnest in this work? Yes, as far as I can see.

The Committee then adjourned.

As amended by the Select Committee.

A

B I L L

TO

Further amend "The *Australasian Rights Purchase Act.*" A.D. 1896.

WHEREAS it is expedient to further amend "The *Australasian Rights Purchase Act*" in the manner hereinafter appearing: PREAMBLE.

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of *Tasmania*, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows :—

1 This Act may be cited for all purposes as "The *Australasian Rights Purchase Act*, 1896." Short title.

2 In this Act the words and expressions following shall have the meanings in this Section ascribed to them respectively; that is to say :— Interpretation

"The said Act" shall mean "The *Australasian Rights Purchase Act.*"

15 "Sluice-head of water" shall mean such a quantity of water as shall pass through an aperture Sixteen inches wide and One inch deep in the outlet end of a gauge-box when the surface of the water is Six inches above the centre of the aperture, or a quantity of 24·168 cubic feet of water per minute.

15 And the expression "works" as used in this Act and the said Act shall include the several things therein declared to be meant and included under the term "waterworks."

[*Private.*]

* * The words proposed to be struck out are enclosed in brackets []; those to be inserted, in parentheses ().

A.D. 1896.

Power to divert
water.

3 It shall be lawful for the Projectors, and they are hereby empowered and authorised, to take, divert, and appropriate from the rivers hereinafter mentioned for the purposes mentioned in Section Four of the said Act, the several quantities of water hereinafter specified; that is to say:—

5

- i. From the *Heemskirk* River a quantity not exceeding One hundred sluice-heads, [which, together] with [the] (a) fall or head of (not exceeding) Two hundred feet [available] at the point of intake, [shall represent the maximum theoretical horse-power to be taken from that river] : 10
- ii. From the First and Second branches of the *Little Henty* River [such] (a) quantity [of water as, together] (not exceeding One hundred sluice-heads) with [the] (a) fall or head of (not exceeding) Two hundred feet [available] at the point of intake, [shall be equal to the theoretical horse-power to be derived from the *Heemskirk* River as hereinbefore mentioned] : 15
- iii. From the *Pieman* River such quantity of water as shall, together with the fall or head available at the point of intake, be equal to Four times the theoretical horse-power to be derived from the *Heemskirk* River as hereinbefore mentioned. 20

Power to take
water to be subject
to Regulations.

4 The powers hereinbefore conferred upon the Projectors to take, divert, and appropriate water from the said rivers shall be subject to such Regulations as the Governor in Council may from time to time prescribe for the purpose of securing a sufficient supply of water for the proper conduct of mining operations above or below the point of intake in any of the said rivers; and the Governor in Council is hereby authorised to make from time to time such Regulations as he may deem necessary for the purpose aforesaid.

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Power to make
Regulations to be
additional to
existing powers
for that purpose.

5 The power hereinbefore conferred upon the Governor in Council to make Regulations for the purpose aforesaid shall be in addition to any powers already possessed by the Governor in Council under the provisions of any Act relating to mining or to the disposal of mineral lands, to make Regulations thereunder.

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Power to enter
upon beds and
banks of rivers.

6 It shall be lawful for the Projectors from time to time to enter into and upon any of the rivers aforesaid, and the beds and banks thereof, and to construct and erect on and in any portion of the banks or beds of the said rivers or any of them such works, dams, weirs, flumes, or races as they may think proper for the purposes of taking, diverting, and appropriating such quantities of water as aforesaid from the said rivers.

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Existing rights
reserved.Plans to be
submitted to
Minister and
approved by him.

7 Nothing herein contained shall abrogate any existing right vested in any person or company to take, divert, and appropriate water from any of the said rivers; and before the Projectors shall take or divert or appropriate any water from any of the said rivers they shall submit to the Minister the plans and specifications of their proposed works for taking, diverting, and appropriating such water, and shall obtain the Minister's approval of the same.

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Water to be re-
turned to rivers.

8 All water taken, diverted, and appropriated by the Projectors from any of the said rivers under the authority of this Act shall be returned to the same river or rivers (unpolluted) at such point or points as shall be shown in the plans approved by the Minister as hereinbefore provided.

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[60 VICT.]

Australasian Rights Purchase.

- 9** The time within which the sum of Ten thousand Pounds mentioned in Section One hundred and Four of the said Act shall be expended by the Projectors as therein provided is hereby extended to the Thirtieth day of *June*, One thousand eight hundred and 5 ninety-seven; and all the provisions of the said Act which refer to the completion of the works authorised to be constructed by the said Act, and all the provisions of the said Act which refer to the forfeiture of the sum of One thousand Pounds required by the said Act to be deposited by the Projectors in a Bank in *Hobart* in the name of the 10 Treasurer of the Colony shall be read and construed in reference to the extended time fixed by this Act for the expenditure of the said sum of Ten thousand Pounds.
- 10** The time within which the works authorised by the said Act to be constructed for the purposes thereof is hereby declared to be a period 15 of Two years from the date of this Act.
- 11** Section Three of the said Act and "The *Australasian Rights Purchase Act, 1894*," are hereby repealed.
- 12** This Act and the said Act shall be read and construed together as one Act.

A.D. 1896.

Extension of time
for the expendi-
ture of the sum
of £10,000
mentioned in the
principal Act.

Works to be
completed within
Two years from
the date of this
Act.

Repeal.

Acts to be read
together.