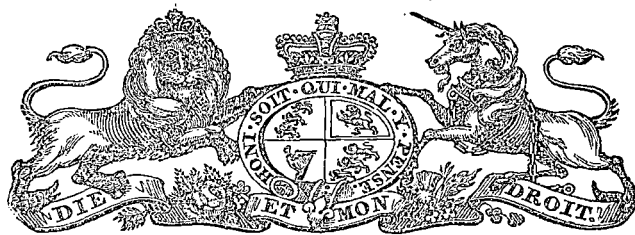


(No. 1.)



1877.

SESSION III.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT:

REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 13, 1877.

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON

THE LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS,

Together with an Abstract of the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Commission; Particulars of the Evidence taken; and Copies of Returns in connection with the Evidence.

CONTENTS.

Copy of Royal Commission and Endorsement.

Instructions to the Commissioners.

REPORT of the Commissioners.

Days of Meeting—8 September, 1876; 13, 18, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28 September, 1876; 18, 20, 30 December, 1876; 10, 11, 13, 17, and 27 January, 1877.

EVIDENCE taken by Commissioners:—

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The Hon. W. Moore. | 7. William Henry Lord. | 13. W. H. Cheverton. |
| 2. Henry Jocelyn Hull. | 8. William Smith. | 14. Wm. Clarke. |
| 3. George Frederick Lovett. | 9. Robert W. Lord. | 15. W. Gregory. |
| 4. Frederick James Windsor. | 10. William Henry Cheverton. | 16. G. S. Seabrook. |
| 5. George Frederick Lovett. | 11. Robert W. Lord. | 17. J. W. Brown. |
| 6. William Smith. | 12. J. R. Frith | 18. Sam. Barrett. |

APPENDIX, containing the following Returns:—

- I. Officers of the Lands and Works Department, 30 September, 1876.
- II. Amounts paid for extra services in Lands and Works Department.
- III. Officers of the Launceston and Western Railway Department.
- IV. Indents forwarded to England through Mr. Jetter.
- V. Indents from 1873 to 1876, for equipment of Launceston and Western Railway.
- VI. Cascade Gaol Buildings, Parliamentary Papers.
- VII. Tenders for Boards for Cascades.
- VIII. Cost of extra Plans, Specifications, and supervision, since 1872.
- IX. Tradesmen employed in repairs in 1875.



LANDS AND WORKS COMMISSION.

(Seal) VICTORIA, *by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.*

To our trusty and well-beloved FRANCIS BUTLER, Esquire, DAVID LEWIS, Member of the House of Assembly, JOHN SWAN, Esquire, WILLIAM TARLETON, Esquire, and PHILIP TURNER, Companion of the Bath.

GREETING :

WHEREAS we have thought it expedient to enquire into the organization and working of the Lands and Works Department: Know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your fidelity, discretion, and integrity, have authorised and appointed, and by these Presents do authorise and appoint you the said FRANCIS BUTLER, DAVID LEWIS, JOHN SWAN, WILLIAM TARLETON, and PHILIP TURNER, or any three or more of you, to make diligent enquiry into the organization and working of the Lands and Works Department: And for the better discovery of the truth in the premises We do, by these Presents, give and grant unto you or any three or more of you full power and authority to call before you all such persons as you shall judge necessary by whom you may obtain information in the premises: And Our further will and pleasure is, that you or any three or more of you shall reduce into writing under your hands what you shall discover in the premises, and do and shall, on or before the first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, certify unto Us in Our Executive Council in Tasmania, in writing under your hands respectively, your several proceedings by force of these Presents, together with what you shall find touching or concerning the premises upon such enquiry as aforesaid: And we further will and command, and by these Presents ordain, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you Our said Commissioners or any three or more of you shall and may from time to time proceed in the execution hereof and of every matter or thing herein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment: And we do hereby command all and singular our loving subjects whomsoever within Our said Colony of Tasmania that they be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these Presents: And we direct and appoint that BERNARD SHAW shall be Secretary to Our said Commissioners, and we command that he be assistant in the execution of these Presents.

In testimony whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made patent, and the Public Seal of Our Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies to be hereunto affixed.

Witness our trusty and well-beloved FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Our said Colony and its Dependencies, at Hobart Town, in Tasmania aforesaid, this fourth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

FRED. A. WELD.

By His Excellency's Command,

THOS. REIBEY, *Colonial Secretary.*

(Seal) VICTORIA, *by the grace of GOD of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.*

To our trusty and well-beloved FRANCIS BUTLER, Esquire, DAVID LEWIS, Member of the House of Assembly, JOHN SWAN, Esquire, WILLIAM TARLETON, Esquire, PHILIP TURNER, Companion of the Bath, GEORGE CRISP, Esquire, WILLIAM DEGRAVES, Esquire, and the Honorable JAMES WHYTE.

GREETING:

WHEREAS by Our within-written Letters Patent we have appointed you the said FRANCIS BUTLER, DAVID LEWIS, JOHN SWAN, WILLIAM TARLETON, and PHILIP TURNER, to enquire as within expressed: And whereas We, reposing great trust and confidence in the fidelity, discretion, and integrity of you the said GEORGE CRISP, WILLIAM DEGRAVES, and JAMES WHYTE, have authorised and appointed, and by these presents do authorise and appoint you the said GEORGE CRISP, WILLIAM DEGRAVES, and JAMES WHYTE, with you the said FRANCIS BUTLER, DAVID LEWIS, JOHN SWAN, WILLIAM TARLETON, and PHILIP TURNER, to enquire as within expressed: And whereas by the within-written Letters Patent We declared it to be Our will and pleasure that the several proceedings of you the said FRANCIS BUTLER, DAVID LEWIS, JOHN SWAN, WILLIAM TARLETON, and PHILIP TURNER, by force of the said Letters Patent, together with what you should find touching or concerning the matters within referred to upon the enquiry within directed should be reduced into writing and certified unto Us in Our Executive Council on or before the first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six: And whereas it seems to us expedient to extend the time within which you the said FRANCIS BUTLER, DAVID LEWIS, JOHN SWAN, WILLIAM TARLETON, PHILIP TURNER, GEORGE CRISP, WILLIAM DEGRAVES, and JAMES WHYTE, shall enquire and certify as within expressed from the first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, to the thirty-first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven: Now know ye that We do hereby extend the period within which you the said FRANCIS BUTLER, DAVID LEWIS, JOHN SWAN, WILLIAM TARLETON, PHILIP TURNER, GEORGE CRISP, WILLIAM DEGRAVES, and JAMES WHYTE shall enquire into the several matters within mentioned, and shall certify to Us in Our Executive Council in Tasmania as within expressed from the first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, to the thirty-first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven: And it is Our will and pleasure and we direct and appoint that HUGH MUNRO HULL, Esquire, shall be Secretary to Our said Commissioners in the place and stead of BERNARD SHAW, Esquire, and We command that the said HUGH MUNRO HULL be assistant in the execution of these Presents.

In testimony whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Public Seal of Our Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies to be hereunto affixed.

Witness Our trusty and well-beloved FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies, at Hobart Town, in Tasmania aforesaid, this twenty-seventh day of November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

FRED. A. WELD.

By His Excellency's Command,

THOS. REIBEY, *Colonial Secretary.*

(Copy.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, 5th September, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint you a Member of a Royal Commission to enquire into the organisation and working of the Lands and Works Department; and I now enclose a Memorandum calling the attention of the Members to those points which the Government desire should receive the fullest consideration.

The Commission has been forwarded to Francis Butler, Esq., who will arrange for the first meeting of the Commissioners at their earliest convenience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

PHILIP TURNER, Esq., C.B.

INSTRUCTIONS to Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Organisation and Working of the Department of Lands and Works.

MEMO.

THE attention of the Royal Commissioners appointed to enquire into the organisation and working of the Department of Lands and Works is specially directed to the under-mentioned subjects, upon each of which they are requested to report fully and unreservedly after examination of such witnesses as they may deem it expedient to summon.

As the enquiry is one of great and pressing importance, the Commissioners are requested to enter upon their duties as early as may be practicable, and to furnish their Report for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council as soon as possible.

1. The division of work and duties of the several officers, and the sufficiency or otherwise of the staff employed in each branch.
 2. The system of registration of documents and indexing of subjects, and whether such registration and indexing are kept up to date.
 3. The mode adopted for securing the survey of land for sale, or selection; also for the survey of tracks, roads, &c.
 4. Under whose orders and instructions are the above duties performed; and what check, if any, is maintained upon the field work of the surveyors.
 5. The system at present in force regarding the leasing of mineral lands, and the prompt settlement of disputes.
 6. The manner in which plans and estimates of public works are prepared, including detailed drawings and specifications, and under whose direction and control.
 7. Whether any officer, indoor or out, has been or is in any way, directly or indirectly, connected as a co-partner or otherwise with any one who has been or is a contractor of works in any branch of the Department, or otherwise engaged in trade or business.
 8. The condition and maintenance of the Main Road from Hobart Town to Launceston. The mode adopted to secure its being kept in repair, what check exists upon those employed, and the system pursued in the payment of their wages.
 9. To report upon all other matters the Commissioners may in their discretion deem necessary, accompanied by recommendations.
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To His Excellency the Governor.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

In pursuance of the Royal Commissions dated respectively the 4th September and 27th November, 1876, we have the honor to submit to Your Excellency the accompanying Report with reference to the organisation and working of the Lands and Works Department in this Colony; together with a record of the Evidence on which our opinions and recommendations have, in the main, been based.

In framing this Report, the several subjects have been arranged in the order laid down in the Instructions conveyed by the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 5th September, 1876, of which a copy is annexed hereto.

The great delay that has occurred in finally dealing with the subject has been caused by the difficulty experienced in obtaining, from time to time, a quorum of the Members of the first Commission, of whom two were Government Officers whose ordinary duties occasionally prevented their attendance, and one who, being a Member of the House of Assembly, has felt himself precluded from attending at all whilst Parliament has been in Session.

It will be observed that the Report is not signed by, first, the Honorable James Whyte, who is for the present absent in New South Wales on public duty; it may however be stated, that all the principles of the Report had been concurred in by that gentleman before he left the Colony; second, by Mr. Tarleton, who declines to sign, as he has been unable to give sufficient attention to the proceedings,—in the earlier period by his time being occupied by his duties as Police Magistrate, and afterwards by absence in New South Wales, and by ill health; third, by Mr. Degraives, who states that he declines to sign, having given no attention to the proceedings of a Commission in which his name was included without his consent for that purpose having been previously obtained.*

We have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servants,

PHILIP TURNER, *Chairman*,

FRANCIS BUTLER.

D. LEWIS.

JOHN SWAN.

GEO. CRISP.

31 January, 1877.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSIONERS.

I. ORGANISATION.

THE important branch of the Public Service to which our investigations have been applied requires the employment of trained and skilled officers; and it appears unreasonable to expect that their professional work can be efficiently supervised by a Minister whose claims to office are founded more on political grounds than on special knowledge of the business of the Department; such supervision has been on trial since the beginning of 1873, and the experiment has, in our opinion, been unsuccessful.

We are of opinion that an absolute necessity exists for the appointment of a permanent head to the Department; and that the office should be filled by a trained and experienced Civil Engineer, competent to advise and control in all matters—Railway management included—within the province of the Department. We believe that this officer should be a Civil Engineer, because training as such would qualify him for supervising the whole of the professional work of the Department in the several branches of the Lands, Works, and Railways. The supervision of the clerical work of the Lands Department might still be left with the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, and the actual management of the Launceston and Western Railway with the present Manager.

In any further allusion to this officer he will, for convenience, be styled "Director."

* The Colonial Secretary was under the impression that Mr. Degraives was willing that his name should be placed on Commission.—THOS. REIDEX.

We have reason to believe that this appointment will be approved on all hands, and it therefore appears to be unnecessary to enter into any lengthened details in support of the proposition; but it may not be out of place, in illustration, to summarise certain proceedings with respect to the recent heavy outlay of public money on the projected Gaol Buildings at the Cascades.

It would seem that no Plan, Specification, or Estimate was prepared previously to asking for the Parliamentary Grant of £5000,—that amount having been fixed by “guess;” the ground was not properly inspected until the work was in an advanced state; and, when it was found that the site was unsuitable, the Minister assumed the responsibility of over-ruling the only professional opinion at his command, viz., that of the Overseer of Works, as to the best means of remedying the defect. The progress of these buildings has been stayed, and it is believed will not be resumed. The amount thus wasted in this one instance would probably provide for the office of Director for some years.

Subsequently to the above portion of this Report having been decided upon, we have received a letter from the Honorable William Moore, late Minister of Lands and Works, relative to the difference of view alluded to by us as having existed between himself and the Overseer of Works, with respect to the proper method of procedure with the works at the Cascades. A copy of this letter is appended hereto.

We are also of opinion that an Inspecting Surveyor,—for the purpose hereafter to be pointed out,—an additional Draftsman, and an additional Clerk should be appointed to the Lands Department. These additions, together with the Director, should suffice to subdue all arrears, and ensure the punctual performance of all the work of the Department, as it exists at present, within the usual office hours, leaving no duty to be done in extra time.

It must not be assumed that the appointment of these officials will necessarily largely increase the cost of the Department, as a great deal of the work to be done by the Director and increased Staff is now paid for by the Government, either to professional men outside the Department or to those at present in the Department, for extra work; the whole amount of such extra payments not being in any way shown in the Estimates which are submitted for the sanction of Parliament.

If it is considered that the Railways and other engineering works likely to be undertaken in the Colony would alone absorb the services of one head officer, and as in that case the Department would be divided into two branches, we are of opinion that the head of the second branch should also be a professional man capable of planning and supervising the Public Works; and that one of these two officers should have the supervision of the Surveyors and Drafting of the Lands branch.

It is particularly necessary that the professional branches of the Department, such as the Drafting, Surveying, and Supervision of Works, should be liberally officered, as in case of a pressure of work assistance of first-rate quality cannot be obtained in the Colony.

II. REGISTRATION.

The system of Registration in the Lands Office seems to be sufficient; and the Letter Books are posted up to date.

There are considerable arrears in the Registration of what are technically described as Documents; but it is estimated that the undivided attention of a good clerk would bring up these arrears in three or four months. We are of opinion that this extra assistance should be given without delay. There has been no Registration of Documents since the end of 1870; and although at the present time the intimate knowledge of the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands with past transactions supplies in some measure the want of a Register, it appears to be obviously improper to rely on this advantage for the future.

There is no Registration of the Maps or Plans in either the Lands or Works branch. This appears to us to be a defect calling for immediate remedy, as a proper Register would not only promote facility of reference, but would afford the means of promptly recovering those valuable records whenever, as necessarily happens, they are removed for some temporary purpose to any of the other Government offices.

III. & IV. SURVEYS.

Surveys are performed by Contract, under instructions issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands to the Surveyors, who are paid by the Government, the fee having been previously charged to the applicant.

There is no check on the Field work performed by the Surveyors beyond the examination in the Lands Office which is given to the Field notes and Diagrams sent in by the Surveyors.

This check we consider to be insufficient: it certainly suffices for the detection of inaccuracies in the work of those surveyors who are trustworthy and reliable, but it has no practical utility whatever in any other contingency. It therefore appears to us that the system is imperfect, and that errors may occur under it which cannot be detected by any mere office examination.

We recommend that an actual inspection on the spot of Surveys should be placed in charge of the Inspecting Surveyor, whose appointment has been recommended under Section I.; and whose services, when not required for this particular duty, would be available for any other Survey work required by the Department.

V. MINERAL LEASES.

The means for the prompt settlement of disputes having been provided by the appointment of a Commissioner of Mines since the date of our Commission, we have only two suggestions to offer under this head; viz.—

First,—That the applicant for a Lease of Mineral Lands should be required to have his selection marked out previously to his application. This appears to be desirable in order to facilitate the work of the Surveyor, and also to guard against any unfair alteration in the site after the application for leasing shall have been acceded to by Government. A similar Regulation has been found to work well with respect to Gold-mining claims. The measure recommended would eliminate the element of uncertainty which at present exists, and which has the effect of creating disputes and dissatisfaction; causing in some cases injustice, and in all cases giving opportunities for imputations on the impartiality and fair dealing of the Minister of the day.

Second,—That the awards of the Commissioner should be declared irrevocable in any way other than by the decision of the Supreme Court.

VI. PLANS AND ESTIMATES.

As a general rule, all important Public Works are executed under Contract; and for these, plans, specifications, and estimates are prepared in advance. Providing that complete drawings and specifications have been prepared, this system should ensure the execution of the Works at the cheapest rate and in the most satisfactory manner; but to obtain this result, by procuring a fair amount of competition, the general public must have confidence in the fairness and impartiality of the superintendence of the work.

Plans for Public Works have, for the last four years, been prepared by the Draftsmen generally on the verbal instruction of the Minister, who, although he may know what is required, must in almost every case, from want of adequate professional knowledge, be unacquainted with the best means of attaining the desired result; but for the correctness and completeness of these plans no other official than the Minister is responsible,—in effect, no adequate responsibility exists in connection with this important duty.

The Estimates and Specifications for Works for the last four years have been in all cases prepared by the Overseer of Works, who, except in special cases, superintends the execution of the works. The Overseer of Works also certifies that the works have or have not been performed in accordance with the Drawings and Specifications, and to the correctness of accounts for work extra to what has been contracted for.

These duties are, in our opinion, too important in their nature to be entrusted (virtually without appeal to a higher authority) to an officer in the grade of Overseer of Works, who has other onerous work to do, and whose *status* is indicated by the salary attached to his office, viz., £250 a year.

Those works which are too limited in extent to be executed under the above-mentioned system of Contract are in some cases done by day labour, the necessary material being purchased by the Overseer of Works; in other cases they are given for execution to the principal tradesmen in their respective branches in the town, the selection in this respect being made by the Overseer of Works, who also superintends the performance of the work and examines and passes the accounts for the same.

We recommend that these works should be done under some system by which all the principal tradesmen in the town may have the opportunity of obtaining the business.

The amount expended without contract in the year 1875 exceeded £4000; but we will not dwell on this detail, as it, as well as the practice which has obtained, of making purchases without inviting competition for the supply, will scarcely fail to be duly considered and dealt with by the Director who may hereafter be appointed as permanent Head of the Works Department.

VII. OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

We have not succeeded in eliciting the positive information which is desirable in a matter of such serious importance ; but at least it is established that Mr. Cheverton, Overseer of Works, is connected in business with Mr. Ford, who has been a Contractor with the Department of Lands and Works ; and further, that Mr. Cheverton was formerly in partnership with Mr. Andrews, also a Contractor ; but it does not appear that the Public Works performed by Mr. Andrews were under Mr. Cheverton's supervision.

Mr. Cheverton is also a partner in a Tramway Company at Franklin ; and it is evident to us that these connexions have excited in the public mind strong suspicions of objectionable irregularity and partiality in regard to Contracts.

It is stated in evidence by witnesses of high character that competition for public Contracts is not of that extended nature which it would assume if no such connexions existed ; and we desire to place on record our full participation in that view.

This state of things should not be permitted to continue ; and we recommend that prompt and effectual measures should be taken for its suppression.

It does not appear that any express Regulation exists in Tasmania by which Government officers are prohibited from engaging in trade. We recommend that an order to that effect should be promulgated ; and that no deviation therefrom should be permitted unless the Ministerial Head of the Department should assume the responsibility of making a written exception, on a statement of the special circumstances which may seem to render the deviation necessary or desirable for the public advantage.

It is further in evidence that Mr. John Brown, Contract Surveyor, has been and is a shareholder in mining pursuits in the district in which he acts for Government ; and that Mr. Lord, a Draftsman, carries on, after office hours, his profession as an Architect ; but it does not appear to us that any public inconvenience is likely to arise in either of these two cases.

We further recommend that all persons in the Department should be strictly prohibited from receiving gratuities of any kind for any purpose connected with their official duties, without the written consent of the head of the Department.

VIII. MAIN ROAD.

The Main Road may be confidently stated to be in good condition ; and we believe that the present system is sufficient for keeping it in repair, efficiently and economically.

The appointment of Director will enable a more frequent inspection than is at present practicable in this respect ; as also a more complete check on the payment of wages, which is at present made by the Overseer of Works, who has also the general superintendence of the road.

PHILIP TURNER, *Chairman.*
FRANCIS BUTLER.
D. LEWIS.
JOHN SWAN.
GEO. CRISP.

HUGH M. HULL, *Secretary.*

Parliamentary Buildings, 31 January, 1877.

Hobart Town, 25th January, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated the 9th instant, enclosing copy of Mr. Cheverton's evidence; and I avail myself of this opportunity to thank the Chairman and Members of the Royal Commission for the courtesy thus shown me.

I will comment on the evidence only in so far as it affects anything done or caused to be done by myself; and in doing so my attention is immediately directed to Questions 186 and 190, having reference to works in course of being carried out at the Cascades.

By a reference to the plans it will be seen that the "air flues" are placed about three feet clear from the foundations of the walls of that portion of the building referred to by Mr. Cheverton. For some reasons, best known to that gentleman, the excavations necessary for the construction of those flues were not carried out where shown on the plan, but close up to the walls of the buildings, exposing the foundation and removing that portion of the ground which had become consolidated, and which was absolutely necessary to resist lateral pressure. On seeing this I was very much annoyed, and at once ordered the stoppage of the excavation within the prescribed distance from the walls of the building (one wall only having been thus weakened): and, in order to repair the injury thus done and protect it, I ordered the space between the wall and the flue to be filled with concrete and well rammed, which would not have been otherwise required had those excavations been carried out as shown on the plan.

I do not think the concrete used on the boundary walls was in excess of what was necessary, but I certainly think the dwarf or intermediate walls, which had only to carry the floor, did not require the quantity used.

I disclaim any responsibility for the unnecessary quantity of concrete used, not having ordered it verbally or by written instruction, except in so far as here stated by me.

The works at the Cascades were at the time under Mr. Cheverton's supervision; and no Clerk of Works was appointed until I discovered the inferior quality of the concrete, and the unsatisfactory manner in which the works were being carried out.

I shall feel obliged if you will allow me to peruse any further evidence which may, in your opinion, require some explanation from me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

H. M. HULL, *Esq.*, *Secretary Royal Commission.*

EVIDENCE.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1876.

The Honorable WILLIAM MOORE called in and examined.

By the Chairman.—1. I believe you held the office of Minister of Lands and Works in the late Administration? Yes. I was Minister of Lands and Works from the 5th August, 1873, to the 10th July, 1876, inclusive.

2. Will you be so good as to state the duties of the several officers who were under your orders during the period of your administration? I will furnish a return.

RETURN of the Duties of the Officers of the Lands and Works Department.

CLERICAL DEPARTMENT.

H. J. HULL, *Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands*.—Correspondence, receipt of all Moneys, &c., and the superintendence and direction of the Department.

GEO. F. LOVETT, *Ministerial Clerk*.—Railways, Gold Fields, Lands leased, Describing Clerk.

FRANK LOVETT, *Junior Clerk*.—Returns, entering Correspondence and indexing, entering Purchases and Instalments, &c.

DRAFTING DEPARTMENT.

F. J. WINDSOR, *Chief Draftsman*.—Superintendence and direction of this branch, examination of all Grants, Plans, &c., charting of all Applications, preparing Land Sales, &c.

ALBERT REID, *Draftsman*.—Preparation of Plans, examination of Surveys, Returns of Grants issued, Preparation of Lithographic Transfers, &c.

F. W. ABBOTT, *Draftsman*.—Entering up Plans and Lithographs, giving information to the public, Tracings and Lithographic Transfers, &c.

FRANK SEARL, *Draftsman*.—Plotting all Surveys and calculating Areas, compiling Plans, giving information to the public, &c.

ALF. H. LOVETT, *Junior Draftsman*.—Indexing Diagram Books, Tracings, &c.

E. CASTRAY, *Junior Draftsman*.—Tracings, affixing Diagrams to Mineral Leases, mounting Plans, &c.

R. C. ECKFORD, *Lithographer*.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

WM. SMITH, *Clerk*.—Conducting clerical work.

WM. C. CATO, *Junior Clerk*.—Assisting with clerical work.

W. H. LORD, *Draftsman*.—Preparation of Plans, &c.

W. H. CHEVERTON, *Overseer of Works, South side*.— } Supervising Works, certifying to Accounts,
J. R. FRITH, *Overseer of Works, North side*.— } prepare Specifications, submit Designs, &c.

3. Was the staff employed sufficient for the prompt and efficient discharge of all the duties of the Department? It was not.

4. What additional assistance was required? I would propose a Civil Engineer as the head of the Works branch of the Department competent to deal with Railways and all works of construction, including works under votes of Parliament, under the 28th section Waste Lands Act, the Local Public Works Act, and for the general supervision of the Works Department. I also think a Commissioner of Mines should be appointed to act as Commissioner of Gold Fields and Commissioner under the Mineral Leases Act, to deal with all cases on the spot, and that he should be allowed travelling allowances to enable him to go from one locality to another. I think an additional Clerk and Draftsman in the Department necessary. With the additions mentioned, under the control and supervision of a Minister, I think the Department of Lands and Works could be efficiently worked. I now furnish a statement of the cost of working the Department from 1864 to 1869, and from 1870 to 1875, both inclusive, showing that, notwithstanding the increased amount of work thrown upon it by legislation and the discovery of minerals, it has been—without any sacrifice of efficiency—much more economically worked during the latter period, viz., since the appointment of a Minister.

Under Surveyor-General.

Year.	Cost.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1864.....	6357 18 10	
1865.....	6713 11 6	
1866.....	7684 16 1	
1867.....	6548 2 1	
1868.....	7197 19 6	
1869.....	7312 2 4	
	<hr/>	41,814 10 4

Year.	Cost.			£	s.	d.
	£	s.	d.			
1870.....	5078	16	10			
1871.....	5662	8	0			
1872.....	3794	9	8			
1873.....	3651	0	5			
1874.....	4344	18	6			
1875.....	4302	19	1			
					26,834	12 6
Difference in cost of Department during the period named..					£14,979	17 10

5. What method was followed in surveying Government land for purchase, or for selection, and for any other purpose, such as roads; and who gave the orders for such surveys? The magnetic system is adopted, and all surveys are therefore only approximately correct. The orders for surveys are given by the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, and all instructions necessary for the carrying out of such surveys are given by him. In ordinary cases they are issued by him without any reference to the Minister, but in cases where there is a doubt as to whether it is desirable to alienate the land so applied for, or where it is proposed to lay out and survey a site for a new town, then he applies to the Minister for instruction.

6. What check was kept on the field work of the Surveyors? No check whatever in the field, but the field notes are checked and the diagrams carefully examined in the office. The only way to check surveys would be to appoint an Inspector with a sufficient staff to inspect the work of the Surveyors.

7. What was the system under which mineral lands were leased? Under the provisions of the Mineral Leases and Gold Fields Regulation Acts, application is made to the Minister of Lands, who causes a survey to be made, and leases are granted in accordance with the provisions of the Acts before named. I think it desirable that all leases should have the concurrence of the Governor in Council. This does not apply to pastoral leases under the Waste Lands Act, which must be submitted to auction before any lease can be granted by the Minister.

To Mr. Butler.—8. Does the mode at present adopted for the survey of lots for sale by auction, for selection, and sections for mineral leases ensure the survey of such lots within reasonable time? Yes, I think so, except in the cases of late mineral discoveries, where the Department had no accurate knowledge of the country, such as Mount Bischoff, and the country lying between the port of Ringarooma and George's Bay. Such cause of delay is now removed. The points named have been connected by actual survey, and lithograph plans of those localities were prepared and circulated before I left office. This work being now completed I think the present system would be sufficient.

To the Chairman.—9. When any dispute arose with regard to mineral lands what means were adopted for their prompt settlement? The Minister of Lands decided upon the claims of parties on the best evidence that could be produced as to the rights of claimants, supported by the circumstances, date, and nature of the applications. In future I would recommend that a Commissioner should investigate these matters on the spot, following, as near as practicable, the manner prescribed by the "Gold Fields Regulation Act." The means of settlement at my disposal were not adequate for dealing promptly with all matters in dispute. The services of the Gold Commissioner were dispensed with at a time when his office was a mere sinecure. There have been no gold-mining disputes since that I am aware of.

10. Who prepared the plans, estimates of surveys, and specifications for Public Works; and under whose direction and control? They were prepared generally by a mechanical Draftsman, under the direction of the Minister of Lands, assisted by the Overseer of Works. Exceptions were made in the case of the additions to Custom House, Launceston, when plans and specifications were prepared by Mr. Mills; and Mr. Hunter has instructions to prepare plans for the alterations and additions to the General Hospital, Hobart Town.

To Mr. Butler.—11. What officer is responsible for the completeness of the plans and specifications prepared in the office on which tenders are called? The responsibility mainly rests with the Overseers of Works (Mr. Cheverton and Mr. Frith), subject, of course, to the inspection and approval of the Minister of Lands and Works. The plans for works on the north side of the Island, with the exception before mentioned, were prepared by Mr. Frith.

12. Under whose supervision are the different works executed? I have during my term of office frequently inspected the Main Road, and, with few exceptions, every work of any magnitude; but the general supervision is entrusted to the Overseers of Works, and in a few instances, where constant watchfulness is required, Clerks of Works have been employed.

13. By whose instructions are any extra works executed? By the instructions of the Minister of Lands and Works, recommended by the Overseers.

14. Who is responsible that the works under contract are executed in accordance with the plans and specifications? As Director of Public Works that responsibility devolves upon the Minister: the Overseers of Works are accountable to him.

15. What officer certifies that the works under contract are satisfactorily completed, and on whose certificates are progress payments made and the balance of contract on completion? The Overseers of Works, countersigned and approved by the Minister.

16. Under what regulations, if any, are the amounts appropriated by Parliament for repairs to public buildings, &c. expended? There are no regulations.

17. What is the limit of expenditure on works for which tenders are not called? Tenders are called in every instance except in cases of very small repairs. There is no prescribed regulation fixing a maximum limit.

18. Have you known money voted for one purpose to be appropriated to another? To a small amount only.

19. Should any alterations be made in the character or quantity of works under contract described in the plans and specifications, what officer is responsible for such alteration? The Minister, as Director of Public Works, would be responsible. Such alterations could not be made on the sole authority of the Overseers of Works.

20. Should not such Engineer have the general supervision of the Survey branch as well as the Public Works branch? No; I do not think any Engineer could perform the combined duties satisfactorily. The Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands should retain the control and supervision of the Survey branch under the Minister.

21. What portions of the Public Service are under the Lands and Works Department? Crown Lands, Public Works and Buildings, Roads and Road Districts, Boards of Works, Gold Fields, Minerals, Launceston and Western Railway.

Memo. of additional works thrown upon the Department since the appointment of a Minister.—Launceston and Western Railway; Works under 28th Section Waste Lands Act; Works under Local Public Works Act; Applications for Minerals, &c.

To the Chairman.—22. Have you any grounds for believing that during the period of your administration any person in the Department of Lands and Works was in partnership with any contractor for Public Works, or had any pecuniary interest in the public contracts other than his authorised public pay? I have no reason to believe that any officer of the Department had any interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or work performed during my tenure of office; but with regard to works now in progress at the Cascades, I was informed that the contractor, Mr. Ford, was in partnership with the son of the Overseer of Works; and I knew that the timber supplied for the building was received from a mill of which the Overseer was the reputed mortgagee; but the timber was received under public tender called for by the Department. The tender of Chesterman & Co., being the lowest, was accepted; amount of contract about £275. Bearing in mind the circumstances I have indicated, I did not, on my own responsibility, accept Ford's tender (which was £2500 lower than any of the others), but brought the whole of the tenders before my colleagues, who, with myself, decided to accept that of Mr. Ford. Overseer Moore was appointed by me Clerk of Works, and furnished with a copy of the plans and specifications, with an instruction to adhere strictly to the same, and to allow of no extras without my authority.

To Mr. Butler.—23. By whom was the timber inspected and passed? In the first instance by Mr. Cheverton: it was subsequently inspected by myself. The quality was good.

24. Is there any regulation that precludes an officer of the Department from being interested in any business or other occupation out of the Department? There are no Civil Service regulations, but it is a rule of the Department not to allow its officers to perform any work other than that which belongs to itself.

To Mr. Swan.—25. Do you know whether Mr. Cheverton is pecuniarily interested in any business transactions with Mr. Chesterman or Mr. Ford? I do not, further than I have stated.

To the Chairman.—26. Have you any grounds for believing that any person in the Department followed any trade or business other than that for which he was paid by Government? No; except Mr. Henn, who had to leave the service; and Mr. Lord, who was engaged in a small way professionally, but who left the service before my retirement from office.

27. What means were employed for the maintenance of the Main Road between Hobart Town and Launceston? The maintenance of the Main Road is effected partly by contract work and partly by day labour. It is divided into sections, and the cartage of materials and metal is performed by contract within the limits of those sections respectively. The day labourers (except in a few unavoidable instances) are not now, as formerly, scattered over the road without any check or immediate supervision, but are worked in gangs under a sub-overseer, and up to within the last two years all the metal was broken by hand; now this is done by a portable stone-breaking machine, which effects a great saving. I anticipate a still greater saving in the cost of maintenance when the combined portable and traction engine ordered by the late Government arrives and is in full work. It is also the duty of the road-men to repair the Telegraph Line between Hobart Town and Launceston.

28. What supervision was used with regard to those employed on the road; and under what arrangements were their wages paid? It is Mr. Cheverton's duty to supervise all works and repairs on the Main Line of Road. He is assisted in the performance of the same by two working sub-overseers. Monthly sums are advanced to him for the payment of wages. He furnishes an abstract, or pay-sheet, showing the names of the persons employed, time, amounts due, with a voucher attested by a witness. The yearly amount expended on the Main Road is about £2500, which includes all materials, cartage, and labour.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1876.

HENRY JOCELYN HULL called in and examined.

To the Chairman.—29. I have been 25 years in the Department, and have held my present position of Deputy Commissioner since July 1873. I have done the duty of Deputy Commissioner since 1871. I hand in a Return of the Officers of the Department. I recommend one additional draftsman and one clerk

to make the Department efficient. I have stated my views more explicitly in a memorandum I handed in. I do not include the Public Works branch, in referring to an additional clerk and draftsman. The duties of the several clerks are minutely specified in the return. There is a good deal more work now than there was 12 months ago, owing to the discovery of tin. There are some arrears with regard to the registration of documents. It would take one good clerk three months to work up arrears. There has been no registration of documents since the appointment of Minister of Lands and Works; that is, since 1870. I consider the office has been under-manned since the appointment of Minister of Lands and Works. That applies to the drafting as well as to the clerical part. The drafting work in arrear is, putting the survey work on the general plan. The demand for surveys, other than mineral lots, is increasing. It seems to increase every year. I refer to small agricultural lots. The demand for surveys of pastoral lots has decreased. I do not think there is one application in the office now.

I give the instructions for the surveys. They are based upon the application for the land. When the survey fee is paid, I instruct the surveyor. The applicant describes the position of the land, it is referred to the chief draftsman, and if found available the applicant is charted for it. A tracing accompanies my instruction to the surveyor. The surveyor is instructed to connect with the nearest surveyed point. I issue the instructions for ordinary surveys without reference to the Minister of Lands. The check the surveyor's work receives in the office would, I think, prevent land being sold twice, or surveyed so that two lots would overlap. Compensation has been given in some instances, but it arose from the surveyor's work not having been properly examined. The mode at present adopted has been found sufficient to secure the survey within a reasonable time. Instructions for the survey of tracts or roads are invariably given by direction of the Minister. The surveyor, after receipt of instructions, makes the survey and sends in a diagram, accompanied by a copy of the field notes. When Mr. Tully was employed he visited the ground and went over the surveyor's work, in reality making a re-survey of the land. He found fault with the work of some of the surveyors then employed.

When Mr. Tully was employed his work was examined in the office. I do not consider the present system is as efficient a check as a field inspection. Mr. Calder employed one of the district surveyors to inspect the field work of the other district surveyors when there was any doubt the work was not being properly performed. The present system is not sufficient to ensure accuracy generally. All the communications between the surveyors and the office pass through my hands. There are frequently cases where, after examination of the diagrams, they are sent back for re-survey or examination, if in the examination they do not agree with the field notes, or with other surveys in the office,—those are adjoining surveys.

30. What system is in force regarding the leasing of mineral lands and the prompt settlement of disputes? The application is received in writing and a date put on it. That application is then sent to the chief draftsman to chart in the office. If the land is available the applicant is called upon to pay the survey fees. After fee is paid, I give instructions to the surveyor, accompanied by a tracing and a copy of the applicant's description and date of receipt of application. When the survey comes in, it goes through the same examination as one for purchase. It is then laid before the Minister, who gets the approval of the issue of a lease from the Governor in Council. In the case of dispute the Minister has generally gone into the matter and decided the question before taking it to the Governor in Council. Appeals to the Minister are made both personally and in writing. "The Mineral Leases Act" does not give power to take evidence on oath. Sometimes much delay arises from the mode of procedure. The matter cannot be thoroughly investigated and satisfactorily settled under the present system. Since the abolition of the office of Gold Commissioner there have been no disputes in the gold fields that I am aware of.

31. Have you any grounds for believing that any person in the Department is in partnership with any contractor for public works, or had any pecuniary interest in the public contracts other than his authorised public pay? None whatever.

I have no knowledge that the regulation prohibiting officers of the Department speculating in gold mining has been contravened. That regulation was intended to apply to surveyors.

I do not know of any regulation prohibiting government officers engaging in private business.

MEMORANDUM submitted by Mr. Henry Jocelyn Hull, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands.

1. The arrears of work, and duties of the several officers, and the sufficiency or otherwise of the staff employed in each branch.

With regard to the arrears of work in the Department there are not so many now as when I took charge five years ago; nor so many as there has been for the last 25 years that I have been connected with the Department; but they have been kept down at the sacrifice of my private time, having to work day and night, and to throw my whole energies into the work in order that arrears should not accumulate. I have but one junior clerk at £50 per annum to assist me in the work formerly shared between Mr. Boothman, late Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, Mr. Smith, Chief Clerk, myself, and Mr. Boothman, junr., a clerk of eight years' training.

The only clerical work in arrears is the registration of papers, but that is a work which has always been in arrears since I have been attached to the Department,—at times far greater than it is at present, although it was the principal duty of one clerk. It would take a good clerk about three months to bring up. The arrears in the drafting branch are not nearly so great as formerly,—the preparation of grant deeds alone being over 800 in arrears when Mr. Moore took office, and now there are not 80; but, nevertheless, we are sadly in want of one more good draftsman and one good clerk to make an efficient staff. Had it not been for the unprecedented amount of work thrown on the Department in consequence of the discovery of minerals, the Launceston and Western Railway correspondence, and work connected with the Gold Fields, Road Trusts, Boards of Works, and other matters quite foreign to the legitimate work of the Survey Department, and which have had to be performed since the appointment of a Minister of Lands and Works, I should not have had a single arrear in the office.

The duties of the several officers of the Department are embraced in a Return called for by the Commissioners.

I do not know what arrears there are in the Public Works branch, as I have not interfered with the details of that branch of the Department. Mr. Smith will be best able to give that information.

2. *The system of registration of documents and indexing of subjects, and whether such registration and indexing are kept up to date.*

The system adopted in this Department is a very simple and a very good one, numbers and sub-numbers being used. The indexing of the books is kept up to date, but the registration of documents is not and never has been since I have been in the Department. In 1865 Parliament voted £300 for bringing up the arrears of registration.

When Dr. Butler took office he instructed the clerk who had charge of that duty to do nothing else until it was brought up. Being a work that can be taken up at any time it is generally performed in slack times; but, as I have before stated, it would not take three months to bring up to date.

3. *The mode adopted for securing the survey of land for sale or selection, also for the survey of rivers, roads, &c.*

The field work of the Department is performed by 10 District Surveyors, who receive their instructions from this Department for work required to be done, and are paid for it at certain contract rates; the costs of surveys being paid in the first instance by the applicants for land. Rivers, roads, and connecting surveys are not charged to applicants.

4. *Under whose orders and instructions are the above duties performed, and what check, if any, is maintained upon the field work of the surveyors?*

Under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands.

There is no field check, but a full and searching examination in the office by plotting from the original field notes, calculating the areas, and comparing with former surveys.

No field inspection I think is necessary; all our District Surveyors being men of honor and integrity, chosen because no fault could be found with their work when we had Inspecting Surveyors. But if the Commissioners think that field inspection is necessary, I would suggest that one of the District Surveyors should be employed for, say, three months in every two years to check the other Surveyors' work.

I am no advocate for the contract system, but while we retain our present staff of Surveyors I am of opinion that it would be waste of money to appoint Inspecting Surveyors.

5. *The system at present in force regarding the leasing of mineral lands and the prompt settlement of disputes.*

The present system is fraught with many difficulties. Most of the localities that have proved stanniferous are quite unknown to the Department, and much preliminary survey work has to be done before applicants can be charted, the delay in which invariably causes disputes, and we have no prompt, or in my opinion sufficient, method for settlement of disputes. I cannot too strongly impress upon the Commissioners the absolute necessity that now exists for the appointment of a Commissioner who could take charge of the Gold Fields as well. I do not believe it possible to settle disputes satisfactorily without visiting the localities and taking evidence on the spot.

H. JOCELYN HULL.

Lands and Works Department, 25th September, 1876.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1876.

GEORGE FREDERICK LOVETT *called in and examined.*

To the Chairman.—32. What duties do you perform in the Department, and what experience have you had in its working? My duties are specified in the return furnished by Mr. Hull now read over to me. I was appointed 1st January, 1859. I shall have served 18 years on 1st January next continuous service in the one Department. I was 8 years attached to the drafting branch as a draftsman. I have also been in the field, and gazetted a surveyor. I am now Confidential Clerk to the Minister of Lands and Works.

33. Is the staff in the Lands branch sufficient for the prompt and efficient discharge of its duties? I consider the staff hardly sufficient, and additional strength is needed. The officers are efficient, but the Department suffers consequent upon the low salaries paid; the services of several officers of experience, who resigned to take more lucrative appointments in this and the other Colonies, have been lost to the Department. I consider the addition of a competent draftsman and a registration clerk necessary.

34. Are you aware of any arrears in the work of the Department? The registering is in arrears; I cannot say to what extent, or when it arose. I have always heard it spoken of as in arrear since I have been in the Department.

35. Whose duty is it to attend to the registration and indexing? There is no special officer told for that duty at present. There was one, Mr. Henry Smith, but he was transferred to the Colonial Secretary's Department. I refer to the registration of documents after the subject is disposed of. The general correspondence is indexed every day.

36. Are you aware that disputes are of frequent occurrence with regard to occupancy under leases, or otherwise, of mineral lands? I am.

37. What method is adopted for deciding such disputes, and does such method ensure their prompt investigation and settlement? Hitherto the settlement of disputes has rested entirely with the Minister of Lands, who did not make personal enquiry or take evidence until recently, when the matters have been relegated to Mr. Bernard Shaw.

To Mr. Swan.—38. What process is undergone by an application for survey of land before the applicant receives a reply? The application is received and registered by the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, who refers it to the Chief Draftsman, who records it upon the working charts of the Colony, and returns it with remarks for the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner. As a general rule, if the land is available the applicant is called upon to pay survey fee.

39. What is about the average time elapsing before the required survey is made? I cannot answer that question; they do not pass through my hands.

To Mr. Butler.—40. Have there been any disputes relating to gold claims since the office of the Gold Fields Commissioner was abolished; if so, how have they been dealt with? None.

41. Is the work now greater than it was in 1872; if so, from what cause? Yes, it is, consequent upon the mineral discoveries.

42. When Mr. Meredith took office in 1872 was the Department sufficiently officered; if not, what extra strength was then required? No; an additional draftsman and registration clerk were needed then.

43. How many officers have left the Department since 1872, and in what duty were they employed? In the Lands Branch three officers have resigned,—Mr. Pignenit, Mr. Kelch, and Mr. Langley, of the Drafting Department. I would call those skilled officers. Mr. Pignenit, a draftsman of considerable talent, who, disgusted at the fact of being in receipt of only £200 a year after twenty-three years continuous service, resigned and forfeited his right of pension. Parliament voted him £200 in recognition of past services. Mr. Kelch and Mr. Langley both left on account of the lowness of their salaries.

44. If at any time increased work is thrown on the Drafting Department, is there any difficulty in obtaining temporary assistance? Six months ago there was a difficulty. There is difficulty still in getting skilled draftsmen to do the work we require, in consequence of the demand and high salaries in the other Colonies.

45. In case temporary clerical assistance is required in the Department, is there any difficulty in obtaining such assistance? I think not.

46. Are the fees and rents received by any officer in the Lands Department? Some are paid direct into the Treasury, and some to Mr. Hull, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands.

47. Is the staff now the same as when Mr. Meredith took office as Minister of Lands and Works, end of 1872, in succession to Dr. Butler, clerical and drafting; if not, what difference? It has increased by the appointment of an additional junior clerk and a junior draftsman.

48. Who has charge of the plans and other documents relating to the lands? The Chief Draftsman. The plans are kept in presses, and arranged in Counties. The number of plans is rapidly increasing with time, and I consider it desirable that every plan should be numbered, and an index made to each County; this would facilitate a ready reference to plans, as much time is frequently lost in hunting for them. The same system should apply to Public Works' plans. In New South Wales a Custodian of Plans is appointed under the Chief Draftsman.

To the Chairman.—49. Is it within your knowledge, or have you any grounds for believing, that any person in the Department has been in any way pecuniarily connected as a partner or otherwise with any Contractor for works? I have no actual knowledge. A claim to a grant of land has been made in the joint names of Mr. Cheverton, the Overseer of Works, and Mr. Ford, a Contractor for works still in operation. I can say nothing beyond that.

50. Have you known of any one in the Department being engaged in trade or in any business other than that for which he received public pay, and is there any order restraining officers from engaging in private work or business? I have reason to believe Mr. Cheverton is engaged in the timber trade, but I do not actually know it,—it is at Garden Island Creek; and Mr. Henry Lord has private practice as an architect. There is an order restraining officers of the Department from doing private work out of office hours. Since 1856 the grant deeds have been engrossed and diagrams affixed out of office hours, except for an interval of two or three years. Lithographic plans of Counties have been drawn out of office hours, and paid for by the Government.

To Mr. Butler.—51. You say that an extra draftsman would be sufficient to render that branch efficient; would the office be then able to do the grant deeds in office hours? I think not. The extra draftsman would not be able to do the lithographic work either.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1876.

FREDERICK JAMES WINDSOR *called in and examined.*

To Mr. Butler.—52. How long have you been in the Department? I have been about twenty-six years in the Lands Department. I am head of the drafting branch, and am responsible for all the work done therein.

53. How many skilled Draftsmen have you under you? How many inferior ones volunteers? One thoroughly competent, and four others who could not be entrusted with superior kind of work.

54. What do you mean by superior kind of work? Responsible work, such as charting and comparing surveyor's work in the field, and the general examination of the field work; also preparing plans for the lithographic stone, together with the other duties enumerated in the return furnished to the Committee, all of which are wholly of a responsible nature.

55. Is the amount of superior work greater than one person can do? Yes; that which he cannot do falls back. It does not accumulate; we work it off as well as we can. Mr. Reid does all the superior work, including the transfers for lithographic plans. In some instances they have been done after office hours, and paid for, which has been a great assistance to us.

56. Was the staff in the Drafting Branch sufficient when Mr. Meredith took office on 4th November, 1872? No, I think not. The amount of work thrown upon us was very trying.

57. Is there more work in the Drafting Rooms now than in 1872, when Mr. Meredith took office? Considerably more.

58. Have you more or less draftsmen now than when Mr. Meredith took office as Minister of Lands and Works in succession to Dr. Butler? Less. We lost in Mr. Meredith's time Mr. Langley; in Mr. Moore's time, Mr. Piquenit and Mr. Kelch. They were experienced competent men, and we got in their places young inexperienced officers, who have to work for years before they attain efficiency. (*Mr. Hull's Return read to Witness.*) The description of the work of each draftsman in the Return now read is accurate.

59. Is the present staff sufficient supposing that the work at present done out of office hours and paid for as extra work was still executed on the same system? No, certainly. We still require one extra skilled draftsman. That would not relieve me of the work I undertake. It would not allow all the work done out of office hours to be done in the office. The transfers for lithographic purposes are done by Mr. Reid and Mr. Lovett out of office hours, and are paid for as extra.

To Mr. Swan.—60. What amount of extra assistance would be required to enable the Department to get all the work done in office hours? I should certainly say not less than two skilled draftsmen in my particular branch;—the Drafting Department.

To Mr. Butler.—61. Have you now any more than the usual arrears of work? No, we have not. There are no more arrears now than we had at the beginning of the year.

62. How are the plans and other documents kept? In the presses in the Drafting Room. The different Township and County plans are kept separately. All plans relating to one County are kept together.

63. Is there any registration of the plans and other documents in the Drafting Branch? No. An attempt was made when Dr. Butler was Minister, but we had not the necessary time or strength in the office to carry it out.

64. What instructions do you give to the District Surveyors? Printed forms of instruction filled in, accompanied by a tracing; if any special matter addenda made by myself. In giving instructions for Mineral Sections I give the date of receipt of application and also a copy of the description embodied in the application for the guidance of the Surveyor in dealing with them as to priority.

65. Who is responsible that the proper instructions are given to the District Surveyors? I am.

66. What check is there on the work done by the Surveyors? A thorough examination of a copy of his field notes, with his plan and diagram. If any discrepancies are found to exist with previous surveys, reference is made to him for explanation. The system adopted is efficient. There has been no change in the system of check during the time I have been in the office; more care has latterly been observed in carrying out the system.

67. In the case of one lot adjoining a lot already surveyed, what is there to prevent a surveyor from making a field book and diagram therefrom without actually making a survey at all? We should soon learn from local information, but there is nothing to prevent it.

68. Have any instances of inaccuracies in the surveys been discovered after the grants have been issued or the selectors put into possession of the land? A case occurred recently in Devon. An original survey was found to disagree with one recently made by the check in the office. A subsequent survey proved the original one to be in error, and a repayment made to the purchaser. There was no means of finding out that error until the adjoining survey was made. I do not know of any other case than the one I have mentioned, where compensation has been paid by refunding the amount he had overpaid.

69. Can you suggest any more efficient check on the work done by the contract surveyors? None; except by sending one surveyor periodically to check the surveys of the other; or by exchanging districts for a short time.

To Mr. Swan.—70. Would there be sufficient work to keep an inspecting surveyor constantly employed in the field? Sufficient work might be found for him.

To Mr. Butler.—71. Is the work of charting applications for mineral sections extra to what was performed previously to the late discoveries of minerals? Yes.

To Mr. Swan.—72. Who has decided upon the localities surveyed as townships, and on whose suggestions? The Surveyor-General, and mostly by the suggestion of the District Surveyor.

73. Do you know of many instances where such lands have been surveyed and not sold? I know of a few, and can instance the town reserves of Alma, marked off into allotments in 1856; of Fonthill, in 1860; and of Alexandra in 1866; all of which were surveyed, speculatively, under the general authority of the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer of the day.

To Mr. Butler.—74. Have you any drafting work to do in connection with the Launceston and Western Railway? No.

To the Chairman.—75. Is it within your knowledge or have you any grounds for believing that any officer of the Department is or has been connected as partner or in any other way with any contractor for public works, or receives or has received any pecuniary advantage from such works other than his public day? It is not within my knowledge, nor have I any grounds for believing such has been the case.

76. Do you know of any one in the Department now or formerly being engaged or interested in any private trade or business? One I know of is young Mr. Lord, who practised as an architect while he was attached to the Public Works branch. Also that of Mr. Henn, formerly lithographer of the Department.

To Mr. Swan.—77. Is there any practical examination of any drafting work performed by you? No; there is not.

78. Do I understand that you perform any duties formerly done by the Surveyor-General? I perform a portion; namely—the examination of schedules and grant deeds.

79. Do those duties require special professional knowledge? Yes.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1876.

GEORGE FREDERICK LOVETT *called in and examined.*

By the Chairman.—80. It has been shown that the correspondence with reference to Railway Orders for England is in your charge. Please to state by whom such Orders are framed originally? The indent for the order is framed by the Manager of the Launceston and Western Railway, and is acted on without any further advice. The orders are sent through me to Mr. J. F. L. Jetter in London, who selects all railway material, stock, &c. The Crown Agents are instructed not to honor an account on presentation without Mr. Jetter's certificate. Mr. Jetter is paid two and a half per cent. commission. The railway material imported is not inspected on arrival.

By Mr. Butler.—81. Has Mr. Jetter any authority to vary the orders sent to him for execution? No, he has not. He would not do so to any extent.

82. What railway plans, sections, &c., have you charge of? The Launceston and Western Railway, the Main Line Railway, and the Mersey and Deloraine Railway.

83. Who is the Traffic Manager of the Launceston and Western Railway? Mr. R. W. Lord.

84. What amount is paid for the preparation, after office hours, of each grant deed? Three shillings for each deed, the deeds being engrossed in duplicate, making six shillings for each grant. The fee charged to the purchaser is fifteen shillings. The work done for the fee of six shillings is the preparation of one-half the schedules, the engrossment of the description in duplicate on parchment, the reduction, where necessary, of the diagram to a smaller scale, and drawing the diagram on the deed in duplicate. The total annual cost amounts to about £120.

By the Chairman.—85. For every deed issued by the Department is there a charge of six shillings against the public for extra work? Yes, except in special cases.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1876.

MR. LOVETT *again called in and examined.*

By the Chairman.—86. Are you aware that any of the District Surveyors have an interest in any mining operations or speculations whatever; if so, is it in the district in which he is engaged? Mining includes gold. I have heard Mr. John Brown's name mentioned as being concerned in gold mining. I cannot say that I have any knowledge of the fact.

By Mr. Butler.—87. Is it in his district? I allude to scrip taken up. I have heard of his having taken shares in a certain public company which works in his district.

By Mr. Whyte.—88. Has he anything to do with disputes between miners? He is a Mining Surveyor, and his duty is to survey lots on application for gold and minerals. He has nothing to do with deciding disputes between miners. He has to conform to the Regulations, and has no discretion as to how he is to mark the boundaries. Contract surveyors are not paid salaries, but each on a certain scale according to his work. They are not recognised as on the staff of the Department, but they are amenable to the Regulations made under the Mining Land Laws.

MR. WM. SMITH *called in and examined.*

By Mr. Butler.—89. Will you state in detail your duties? My duties are to conduct all correspondence connected with works; to draft and submit all letters. If the head of the Department requires a special letter, he drafts it; otherwise I submit all drafts to the head of the Department. I receive all papers, place them before the Minister, and consult him thereon; arrange all matters for contracts or sundry repairs; receive, examine, and have entered all accounts; keep a record of all expenditure; furnish all returns; keep the Director of Public Works' account of money advanced by Treasury to pay wages; have all specifications copied; prepare advertisements; and have general arrangement of my branch of the office.

90. Have you any responsibility as to the correctness of the accounts forwarded to the Treasury for payment; if so, what? Yes; my responsibility rests in that they agree with the authority of the Minister, that there is no excess over the amount provided by the Estimates to meet the expense. I see that the accounts are correct in every particular, and have no errors whatever. I have no responsibility as to the prices of the works.

91. Before contracts for works are entered into, on whom devolves the responsibility of seeing that the amounts provided by Parliament are sufficient to discharge the obligations to be incurred? On the head of the Department—the Minister as Director of Public Works. Of course, he is informed by the Overseer of Works of the estimated cost of works, and on this he gives his instructions. The Overseer is primarily responsible that the amount provided by Parliament is sufficient to meet the expense.

92. Is the staff you at present have sufficient to execute all the clerical and other work devolving on you without any accumulation of arrears? No, it is not. My present staff is composed of myself, a junior clerk, and a temporary clerk. It is not sufficient by a long way.

93. Are there any arrears of work in your branch of the Department? Not very great,—principally indexing books, arranging papers, and posting up expenditure.

94. Is there any registration of documents in your branch; if so, is all the work appertaining thereto kept up to date? No registration in my branch.

95. Have you any duties in connection with the plans and estimates for public works; if so, what? None, except to copy; merely clerical.

96. In what manner are tenders for public works invited? By advertisement in the *Gazette*, and authorised newspapers in Hobart Town and Launceston; not to any special person.

97. When tenders are received, by whom are they opened? By a member of the Board for opening Tenders and myself; generally the member is Mr. Barnard, sometimes Mr. Watt. This arrangement is made at the request of the Minister, who cannot always attend.

98. Are they opened in the presence of the tenderers? No.

99. In the Estimates of Expenditure for 1876, we find £2865 voted for repairs to public buildings generally, furniture, and to the Domain. Will you state the system, if any, on which those votes are expended? The repairs to public buildings was the largest item; several large contracts absorbed that vote for the Public and Parliamentary Buildings, and the Lands and Works Offices; the remainder was expended in sundry repairs which had been applied for and authorised. The system is, when application is made to the Director of Public Works, an estimate is furnished by the Overseer; the Minister approves or otherwise; if approved the work is ordered, if not extensive, to be done by a respectable tradesman; this applies to works, generally, under £30. There have been a few exceptions, where considered desirable and duly sanctioned. Government House was a special case of this nature, and required dispatch. The amount expended at that time was £1700, and for furniture £1000.

100. On what system are the orders for these works distributed amongst the private tradesmen? I have been 14 years in the Department, and, generally, the same tradesmen have been employed; for painter's or plumber's work, Mr. Maher or Mr. Harbottle, and Mr. Mullen and others a little. For mason's and bricklayer's work, a few trustworthy tradesmen; and so with other works. For furniture the same, obtained at respectable establishments, such as Whitesides, Hamilton, Pearson, Smith, &c., as fairly as possible. I consult the Overseer of Works as to the best person, and I intimate it to them. Virtually the Overseer of Works has the responsibility, not the Minister. The work is limited to the authorised amount. The bills are paid on the certificate of the Overseer of Works.

By Mr. Swan.—101. Then the responsibility begins and ends with the Overseer? Yes; he estimates the expenditure, selects the tradesman, and certifies to his work.

By Mr. Butler.—102. Who are the Overseers of Works? Mr. Cheverton on the South, Mr. Frith on the North.

103. Is there any system under which the orders for repairs are assigned to the different tradesmen? Or any schedule of prices by which the values of these works are determined? None in the smaller works,—nor any schedule of prices to determine their value.

104. What check is there on the time of mechanics and their labourers employed on these works, and on the quantities of material used, charged for by the tradesmen? None, except the estimate of the Overseers of Works. I generally also obtain a certificate that the work is done from the Department concerned, but this only shows that the work has been done without particularising the time of the mechanics or material used. The Overseer of Works is supposed to check the time and material of the tradesmen. Of course he cannot keep a constant supervision, but seeing the work done he is able to say whether it is properly done. All the men employed by the Department on these repairs are good and trustworthy mechanics.

By the Chairman.—105. It has been stated to the Commissioners that Mr. W. H. Lord left the service before Mr. Moore retired from office. When did Mr. Lord rejoin the Department, and under what circumstances? I cannot now give dates, but it was about the time that Mr. O'Reilly took office that Mr. Lord returned. He had sent in his resignation, but no action had been taken on it. He came to me and asked what he should do; and I advised him to go back to his work. I could not get the work done elsewhere and I was glad to get him back. Mr. O'Reilly asked me about this. The work is now done as before by Mr. Lord.

106. Have you any ground for believing that any person in the Department of the Lands and Works is, or has been, in partnership with any Contractor for Public Works, or has any pecuniary interest in the public contracts other than his authorised pay? The only case is that of the Cascades. I do not know the extent of the connection between Mr. Cheverton and Mr. Ford. I cannot say if Mr. Cheverton is a partner. I have grounds for believing from Mr. Cheverton himself, that he took for his son when he comes of age a share in Mr. Ford's business in Collins-street. Mr. Cheverton informed me that he had a third share in the Garden Island Saw-mill. Mr. Chesterman signed the account for timber supplied from that saw-mill for the Government, as agent for Deardon. Mr. Chesterman was many years ago a Contractor for Road Works, but I don't know that Mr. Cheverton was then his partner.

By Mr. Butler.—107. Can you furnish the Commission with a list of tradesmen employed for the small works under £30, and the total amount of their Bills for the year 1875? Yes.

108. Do you know whether Mr. Cheverton was a partner with Mr. Andrews? Yes; when he entered the service I understood that the partnership was only formally dissolved; this was in 1860 or 1861. He remained in that connection up to about two years ago, when the affairs were wound up. I have no absolute certain knowledge as to this partnership, but it was merely believed; it was a general understanding.

By Mr. Swan.—109. Did Mr. Andrews then have Contracts with the Government? Yes. Contracts for works in the Ringarooma District, which were supervised by Mr. Cunningham; works at Castra and Ulverstone, supervised by Mr. Frith; Prosser's Bridge, supervised by special officers, but none supervised by Mr. Cheverton. Some deductions were made in the accounts for Ringarooma Works; none for the Prosser's Bridge.

By the Chairman.—110. Has Mr. Lord any private professional work at present? Yes; he has private work, and superintends the carrying out of the same after office hours.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1876.

MR. W. H. LORD, *Draftsman in Lands and Works Department, called in and examined.*

By Chairman.—111. How long were you out of office after sending in your resignation? For a month or six weeks; my resignation was not accepted.

112. What is the nature and extent of private work you do? I work in my over-time, and do any work as an Architect that I can get.

By Mr. Butler.—113. Does your private work interfere with your official duties? It does not. Plans and Specifications are prepared by me for Works in the South, whilst Mr. Frith prepares those for the North.

114. Do you consider yourself responsible for the Plans and Specifications which you prepare? I do not consider myself responsible for the completeness of Plans which I prepare for Tenders; I receive instructions through Mr. Smith from the Minister, mostly verbal orders and sketches.

115. Who prepares the Estimates of the probable cost? Mr. Cheverton.

116. Who signs them? It is not until lately that Plans and Specifications on which Tenders have been called for have been signed. They are mostly signed by me, but I do not consider myself responsible for them.

117. Who prepared the Plans for the Cascades Gaol Buildings? I assisted in preparing them, but I did not sign them; I was not responsible for their completeness.

118. Are plans and specifications exhibited to the various tradesmen about to tender? Yes, at the Office, and I answer any questions put by them. In doubtful points I refer to Mr. Cheverton, who gives me the information.

119. Are alterations made in plans between the time for tenders called and when the tenders are sent in? No.

120. Who assisted you in the preparation of the Cascades Plans? Mr. Rowntree, at his own office; I gave him no instructions.

121. Whilst you were absent from office who did your duty? No one; there was no Draftsman there. I have been in the Department two years next February.

122. You have done all the drafting except those by Mr. Rowntree? Yes; one Draftsman could do all the Drafting work of the Department.

123. Have many important works been carried out since you came to the Office? Yes, a good deal of work,—Buildings and Bridges.

124. What instructions were given you as to the Cascades Buildings? They were merely verbal, no sketches; they were, I think, from Mr. Moore. With the exception of the Cascades, I have prepared all the plans that have been done, except one or two that I have begun. I did part of the Ouse Bridge, and Mr. Rowntree the other; of the Plenty Bridge I prepared one, and Mr. Rowntree another.

MR. WM. SMITH *again examined.*

By Mr. Butler.—125. What number of men are employed on the Main Road? A number of men are employed on the Main Road at certain rates of pay, fixed annually by the Minister; these men are paid monthly by the Overseer of Works, an Abstract, with the acquittance of each man, being furnished by the Overseer, and forwarded in the usual manner for payment. The Abstracts are certified by Mr. Cheverton.

126. Are they in gangs? Only with the stone-breaking machine is there a gang; the number of men has been considerably reduced since the machine has been in operation. There are not more than ten men now employed throughout the whole line, and then only for a portion of the year.

127. These men are employed on a certain length of road? Yes.

128. Can you furnish a Return showing the length of road, and a Monthly Pay-sheet? I will do so.

By the Chairman.—129. What arrangement does the Overseer of Works make in regard to payments for labour? The Overseer asks for a certain amount, and a cheque is given him by the Director of Public Works. Mr. Cheverton calculates the amount required in advance; I keep the Director of Public Works' account of money advanced from the Treasury for wages, and every few months—every quarter—I square accounts with Mr. Cheverton. He witnesses the signatures of the men to the pay-sheet, and where there is a gang he has the Overseer to witness the payments.

130. What returns are there of men employed? We have a printed form which is sent in by each Roadman, showing how he was employed each day in the month. Since these printed forms have come into operation, Mr. Cheverton prepares from them a return, as carefully as possible, of the money he may want in advance; it is then advanced to him by cheque from the Director of Public Works, to whom the money is issued by the Treasury. The Director accounts for all advances at the end of each year.

By Mr. Butler.—131. Mr. Cheverton goes on his rounds to pay every month; very few irregularities occur. The amount yearly paid for wages is about £1600, say £150 or £200 a month for about eight months of the year. The tools are supplied by the Department, and the laborers are responsible for them. All other accounts are paid direct from the Treasury.

132. What supervision is there on the Main Line of Road? The only supervision is that of Mr. Cheverton; this is when he goes to pay the workmen, unless he is on a special journey. We depend on the roadmen for the accuracy of the returns; they work under the instructions of Mr. Cheverton.

133. What is your duty in regard to specifications? I have only to copy them, and arrange for notices for tenders.

134. You say that tenders are opened by a Member of the Board and yourself? Yes, they are usually opened by Mr. Barnard and myself; he is the only Member of the Board who attends, for the sake of the convenience of the Minister, who requests Mr. Barnard to attend. The Board is never called together to open tenders; Mr. Barnard opens the tenders, numbers and initials them, and I schedule them, and then Mr. Barnard signs the schedule.

135. Is it usual to have only three tenders for a large public work? Yes, even for a large public work. There were three tenders for the Cascades Gaol Buildings,—Messrs. Wiggins, Stabb, and Ford.

136. Is it usual to have detailed estimates prepared for works? It is. None, however, were framed for the Cascades Gaol Buildings; I know no reason why it was so. The £5000 estimated as the cost of these works was merely the result of a conversation between Mr. Moore and Mr. Cheverton as to what works should be done; no estimate whatever was framed on which this £5000 was calculated.

137. Is it usual before instructions are given for any work that the total cost should be made known to the Minister? It is; the information in my Memorandum in the printed Parliamentary Paper was obtained by me from Mr. Cheverton. The £930 in this case is an unusual excess; I have never known anything like it since I have been in the Department.

138. Previously to the acceptance of a tender is not every information obtained? Yes, as a rule, if possible.

139. Then the tender for £5350 was £350 more than the sum voted by Parliament for the purpose? It was so. It has occurred in a few other cases that the amount tendered is much larger than the vote for the purpose. In the case of the Cascades Buildings the excess would be about twenty per cent. of the whole amount. I cannot call to mind any case similar to the Cascades Gaol Buildings. It rested solely with the Government as to what the liability would be, and instructions were given to accept the tender.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1876.

R. W. LORD, Esq., *Secretary and Manager of the Launceston and Western Railway, examined.*

By Mr. Butler.—140. Is the establishment for the management and working of the Launceston and Western Railway adequate to the efficient and prompt discharge of all its duties? If not, be pleased to state what additional assistance is required? The regular staff is most efficient, and together with the established provision for extra or temporary labour is adequate so far as the staff is concerned for the efficient and prompt discharge of all its duties.

141. Is any work at present in arrear? There is no work in arrear as regards duties or the repairs to existing stock and permanent way. To meet the demands of a steadily increasing traffic an extension of goods sheds accommodation and rolling stock is most desirable.

142. Who undertakes the duties of Traffic Manager? Myself. In my capacity as Manager I am directly the head of the sub-departments into which railways are generally divided; as follows:—Governmental Head of Department, Minister of Lands; Manager and Official Head of Department, R. W. Lord; Secretary, R. W. Lord; *Traffic Manager, R. W. Lord; Storekeeper, R. M. Johnston; Accountant and Traffic Auditor, R. M. Johnston; Inspector of Permanent Way, L. Dowling; Locomotive and Carriage Department Superintendent, W. E. Batchelor; Cashier and Manager's Assistant, A. Weedon; Paymaster, A. Weedon.

143. Can you suggest any means, by consolidation of offices or otherwise, for the more economical working of the Department without impairing its efficiency? The utmost consolidation possible has already been effected. On railways there are 13 distinct offices, besides that filled by the General Manager. On large railways these offices are further divided and are placed under the charge of sub-heads of departments. The usual 13 distinct departments had been originally consolidated upon the Launceston and Western Railway, but at time of transfer they were further amalgamated as far as it was practicable. The 13 distinct offices are now represented by four individuals, and the railway might be trebled in length without very materially adding to the expense of management. So far as mere cheapness is a standard of economy the Launceston and Western Railway is undoubtedly the cheapest worked railway in the Australian colonies. This fact has been attested year by year in the Launceston and Western Railway yearly reports. As the elaborate authenticated statements there seem in a general way to be misunderstood or discredited, I beg to direct the special attention of the Board to the yearly reports of the railways of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand, where some independent notion of a standard of expenditure may be obtained. I am, however, (in justice to other railways,) decidedly of opinion that mere cheapness is not the best standard of railway economy. There is a greater responsibility thrown on the Manager of a Government Railway, in that he has not a board of advice to support his recommendations, somewhat on the principle of the direction boards of ordinary railway companies. These men are usually selected from a class who have had great railway or business experience, and being practically acquainted with correct standards of economy, are not so apt to be misled by lack of special knowledge on railway subjects.

* Comprises two officers, viz., Superintendent of the Line whose duties are connected with the regulation of trains and staff appointments under Traffic Department; Goods Manager whose duties are connected with the carriage of goods traffic, preparation of rates, &c.

144. Have you any responsibility with respect to the Locomotive or Permanent Way Departments; if so, to what extent? Certainly, as Manager I am the official head of the sub-departments, and am directly responsible for the due supervision, maintenance, and efficiency of all of them.

145. It has been stated that the orders for machinery, rolling-stock, implements, &c. required from England are received by the Minister from you. Under whose advice are such orders prepared, and who prepares the description of such machinery, &c.? By my advice. I am sometimes, if necessary, assisted in the technical detail by the various heads of sub-departments.

146. Please to furnish a return showing the articles referred to in the previous question which have been demanded during the year 1876? Herewith.

147. Under what system are repairs to the permanent way effected? I am doubtful as to the meaning of this query. All repairs to permanent way—which includes the repairs to rails, ballast, bridges, sleepers, earthworks, and buildings—are effected under the head of “Maintenance of Permanent Way,” or briefly “Maintenance.” The Locomotive Superintendent repairs all tools and other matters which require skilled labour or machinery for the Permanent Way Department, the cost of which is finally credited to Locomotive Department, and debited to Permanent Way Department.

148. In any cases of difficulty to whom would the Inspector of Permanent Way apply for advice or instructions? To me, the official head of the various departments. The Locomotive and Carriage and Wagon Department, however, is the most costly and important department, and involves matters which require a much larger amount of skilled labour and superintendence than any other department.

149. At what periods are the different officers, workmen, and laborers paid, and by whom? Workmen and laborers are paid every fortnight, officers every month, by the paymaster.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1876.

MR. WM. HENRY CHEVERTON *called in and examined.*

By Chairman.—150. Your name and official designation? William Henry Cheverton, Overseer of Works.

151. How long have you been in the Lands and Works Department? Since 1860.

152. Your duties are to take particulars of all works, prepare specifications, submit designs or assist in their preparation, report on all matters before expenditure incurred, supervising works, paying wages of men on day-work, certifying to accounts, &c.? Yes, those are most of my duties.

By Mr. Butler.—153. Are those duties the whole of the duties performed by you; if not, state any further duties? I have to attend to the constant demands for works at the various establishments,—in the Electric Telegraph Department and its various Lines; and on the Main Line of Road, to select sites for Bridges; assist the Draftsman in the preparation of Plans, make out Estimates and Specifications, and report on works under construction; mark out roads in different localities under the “Waste Lands Act of 1870,” prepare the specifications, and generally supervise the works.

154. Are you able to perform all those duties satisfactorily to yourself? Not at all times. I do the most urgent at once. The work is too great to get through as I could wish it to be done.

155. Have you any duties connected with the preparation of the necessary drawings previous to calling for tenders for the execution of new works, for additions to existing buildings, or for repairs? Yes, I generally advise with the Minister, as Director of Public Works, as to the preparation of plans, give rough sketches, and estimate the cost.

156. Who is responsible that the whole of the work necessary for the completion of a proposed work is included in the drawings and specification? The Minister, as Director of Public Works, but I am responsible to him for the completeness of the drawings and specifications. We are all supposed to be responsible for the work we perform.

157. Who is responsible that the works contracted for are executed in accordance with drawings and specifications; and in case any alterations are made in the quantity or quality of such works, under whose instructions are such alterations made, and by whose authority? At my suggestion, if any alterations are made, with the concurrence of the Director of Public Works. I am responsible to the Director of Public Works to see that all works under my charge, where there is no specially appointed Clerk of Works, shall be carried out. In the special cases I see by occasional inspection that the work, as far as I can judge, is carried out.

158. Have you the same responsibility as to executed works as the Director of Public Works formerly had? I am responsible to the Director of Public Works in all cases where I report, and he sees that my reports are correct. The responsibility rests with the Minister as Director of Public Works. I do not consider that I have the same responsibility as the Director of Public Works. I have the duties, but not half the salary. If there are any errors in the drawings which had been referred to me, I consider myself liable should any failure arise therefrom.

159. Does the Draftsman make out the necessary drawings under your orders? Generally so, under my advice to the Director of Public Works, who instructs me and the Draftsman to meet his wishes. The Draftsman is an officer under the Minister. He fills one position, and I another.

160. While a work under contract is being carried out, who gives orders for any extra works required; and by whose authority are such orders given? I recommend any extra works, and if the Minister thinks them necessary he approves.

161. In what manner are the accounts for such extra works adjusted? At the completion of the work, by trade or schedule prices.

162. Who is responsible that the price paid for such extra work is a fair and reasonable one? I consider myself responsible to the Minister, as Director of Public Works, for checking prices and quantities, and the Director of Public Works is responsible if he is satisfied with my report.

163. Do you consider your responsibility greater now than when the office of Director of Public Works was filled? No. I am in the same position now as formerly—just as responsible to the Minister, as Director of Public Works, and no more.

By Chairman.—164. Has the Minister any other officer to consult with as to prices, &c.? None but the Clerk. In practice the Minister always depends on my report. Prices rarely alter.

By Mr. Butler.—165. Who is responsible that the quantity of such extra work paid for is not in excess of the quantity executed? I am, for taking measurements and reporting on quantities.

166. On the completion of a contract who inspects the work, certifies that it has been executed in accordance with the plans and specifications, and to the amount due under the contract, and for extra works ordered? I inspect the works under my charge, and certify to claims in accordance with plans and specifications, and for extra works.

167. Are orders for extra works, or for any alterations in the contract work, given in writing or verbally? Sometimes in writing, sometimes verbally by the Minister. I do not order them verbally, as a rule, unless the Minister gives his orders.

168. Would a contractor be paid for any extra works not ordered in writing? Yes; if verbally ordered by the Minister, and there is no dispute on the matter. The Minister signs as correct.

169. When a requisition is made for repairs to any public building what is the course pursued? In all small matters, when the outlay is under £30, an order is given to a respectable tradesman after I have estimated the cost of the work and got the Minister's approval. This has always been done except on special occasions, such as Government House, where the best labour was required; and there the works were done according to schedule.

170. Who selects the tradesman to whom the orders for repairs are given? Sometimes Mr. Smith, sometimes the Minister when I am in the country; when in town, the clerk consults me.

171. What check is there on the execution of the repairs by the different tradesmen? I inspect them, as far as possible, when in town. To be certain, it would require some one to be on the works all day. The Government House works were from four to six months in hand, when we got weekly accounts of time and materials used.

172. In what manner is the value of the different works determined? In small matters I estimate it, and generally arrive at a fair value. The prices are well known, and there is not much variation in them. We get these things off by practice.

173. What check is there on the quantity of material used, and the mechanics' time charged for the execution of these repairs? I inspect the work and measure it, and I take the particulars and compare them with the account when it comes in.

174. Who examines the accounts, certifies to their correctness before payment, and is consequently responsible that the correct amount only is paid? I first examine the accounts as to the charges, and often leave the checking of the figures to the clerk, who has more time than I have, and not likely to make mistakes.

175. Supposing that you made a mistake in certifying to an account, is there any means by which that mistake would be discovered and rectified? The clerk checks the amounts.

176. What is the present condition of the Main Road? It is rough at present from the large number of sheep travelling upon it; they cut up the road very much. It is in fair condition, considering that there has been little labour on it lately. Our system lately has been to concentrate the men with the stone-breaking machine, which is breaking sufficient metal to last for many years on portions of the line of road up to Constitution Hill; beyond that we are making temporary repairs till by-and-bye, when the machine will be sent on.

177. Do you keep men along the line of road giving them a certain length of road to repair? None are employed at present since the money voted was spent. We have only the toll money now to spend, and that has been principally expended in getting metal ready and cleaning the drains on the sides of the road. I have had one man at Perth to look after the bridge and road, and one at Ross; and, with the exception of one or two at the Hobart Town end, they are all concentrated with the machine. Formerly we had them along the line of road, but these are done away with now. We have no money to pay them with but the toll money.

By Chairman.—178. How long does the toll money last you? About two-thirds of the year.

179. What supervision is there over the men employed? At the machine there is an overseer selected. I occasionally visit them, about three or four times a month, and check off the quantity of metal broken.

180. At what work were the men employed when they each had a section to keep in repair? When on sections the men were employed to spread metal, clear drains, and repair culverts; also repairs to telegraph line; and the metal was supplied by contract. Now, the work that used to be done is left undone. The drains are not so well attended to. Thistles are allowed to grow up in the intermediate sections of road. On the whole the road is in as good a condition as it was twelve months ago. Sheep travelling, as I have said, cuts up the road. The road is not deteriorating. The machine metal is obtained at one-half the price formerly paid, even allowing for the fair wear and tear of the machine. The metal broken by the machine makes a better running surface than that broken by hand.

181. The amount of toll money is how much? About £1700.

182. Is it within your knowledge, or have you any grounds for believing, that any person in the Department has been in any way pecuniarily connected as a partner or otherwise with any contractor for works? Not, as alluding to myself, since 1872.

By Mr. Butler.—183. Are you a partner in a saw-mill at Garden Island Creek? I have shares in the Company, and also in the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company. I have shares in a tin mine with Mr. Ford, who is also a shareholder in the Garden Island Creek Saw-mill.

184. A claim to a grant of land has been made in the joint names of yourself and Mr. Ford: are you a partner with Mr. Ford in any business transaction? No. Answered as above.

By Mr. Crisp.—185. Were there not tenders called for for boards? Yes; there were two sent in; one by Captain Fisher and one by the Garden Island Creek Company. The latter was accepted because it was considerably below the other. Captain Fisher's was 10s., the other 8s. 9d.

By Mr. Butler.—186. With regard to the Cascades Buildings, who prepared the drawings? Mr. Lord commenced them and Mr. Rowntree completed them. The responsibility in the matter rested with all connected with it. I consider the Minister and myself to a certain extent responsible in the plans being workable and containing all the works necessary to be done. I examined them first. When the tenders were sent in £150 extra was thought by me sufficient; but the £943 now referred to was due to the contractor for concrete. The state of the walls could not be seen till the flagging was taken up, and then the fearful unworkmanlike state of the old foundations were shown: the work had been slummed. We sunk trenches outside, but the inside was quite different to that outside; the stone foundation had been thrown in by former builders, and it became necessary to place concrete, or the work would have bulged out. The slated roof and the beams, with iron gratings, would have been very heavy—some tons. The Minister ordered the extra concrete, though I recommended that the walls should be taken down. In this case there was an unusual amount of extra work. Very few contracts are completed without extras. Mr. Moore saw the works and advised concrete. The money was insufficient for the whole of the works first shown on plans, and we left out a portion to be done at a future time. It is usual to have rough plans prepared where possible before sums are voted; but our staff is insufficient to get out all plans required. The Government is often undecided after plans are prepared for works. In this case the £5000 was merely guess-work, as an approximate amount for the accommodation required. When the plans were prepared I roughed out the estimate and told Mr. Moore that the vote of £5000 would not be sufficient, and he reduced the quantity of work to be done. My estimate was £5500; the accepted tender was £5350, a little under my estimate. (Schedule of tenders shown to Mr. Cheverton.)

187. How do you account for the difference in the three tenders—£7850, £11,000, and £5350? I don't know. Two of the contractors employed the same architect; each had the same plans and specifications shown them. This contract was only for about two-thirds of the work first contemplated. The amount of excess in the Cascades work is certainly large.

188. Have there been excesses on votes by Parliament for other works? Yes; Launceston Public Buildings, and the Queen's Orphan Schools. It is not unusual for the expenditure to exceed the vote.

189. Were the works at Cascades under your supervision? A Clerk of Works (Mr. Moore) was appointed. I made occasional visits till Mr. Hunter took charge.

190. Who gave the orders for the concrete? The Minister, to the Clerk of Works on the spot. The orders did not go from me.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1876.

R. W. LORD, *Esq.*, again examined.

191. What is the established provision for extra or temporary labour; and to what class of labour does it apply? The established provision is common to all railways and undertakings when the amount of work is liable to sudden fluctuations; viz.—The Manager is empowered to employ temporary labour, under special authority, which is in practice really determined from hour to hour by the amount of extra handling during the various seasons. Preliminary authority to employ extra labour is obtained by Manager from the Minister of Lands and Works in special cases, *e.g.*, the building of carriages, for which Parliament may have voted a particular sum. The ordinary or formal provision is contained in the Estimates passed by Parliament for the particular year; which for 1876 is stated "Extra Labour, &c., £480;" but, as it is impossible for the Manager to determine with accuracy the various complicated influences which affect a season's traffic and consequent extra labour a year beforehand, it is the usual practice to supplement this mode of provision by an additional vote, if necessary, in a subsequent Session. To enable the Members of the Royal Commission to learn something of the fluctuations which affect labour, I give the following examples:—Percentage value of certain months as regards traffic during 1875.—April, 12·3 per cent.; June, 6·4 per cent.; December, 9·2 per cent. Grain traffic (chiefly determines amount of extra labour in Traffic Department).—1873, 13,200 tons grain; 1874, 10,616 tons grain; 1875, 13,787 tons grain.

192. Give a Return of Expenditure under this provision during 1876? The books will shortly be made up for the whole year, an exact statement will then be prepared.

193. By whom would the necessary drawings and specifications for new goods shed be prepared? The recommendations for buildings for the accommodation of traffic are on all railways made by the

Traffic Manager, who also, when a building is sanctioned, advises draftsman or engineer as to the suitability of the building so far as railway working and local arrangements are concerned. When the matter is left in my hands, I get the Inspecting Surveyor to make the necessary drawings and specifications for ordinary station buildings. Cost determines the quality and extent of the structure. The buildings already erected have been constructed according to the plans and specifications of the following gentlemen:—

All original Station Buildings ..	Messrs. Doyne, Major, & Willett.
Locomotive Workshops	J. F. L. Jetter, <i>B.A., Mechanical and Civil Engineer.</i>
Railway Store	Mr. W. E. Batchelor, <i>Locomotive Superintendent.</i>
Carriage and Wagon Shop	Plan—Mr. Peter Mills, <i>Architect.</i> Erection supervised by Mr. L. Dowling, <i>Inspecting Surveyor.</i>
Railway Paint Shop	Mr. W. Batchelor, <i>Locomotive Superintendent.</i>
Gatekeepers' Lodges	4 upon a design supplied through Minister of Lands, and 12 from plans and specifications by Mr. L. Dowling, <i>Inspecting Surveyor.</i>

194. By whom would the necessary drawings and specifications for new rolling stock be prepared? By the Mechanical Engineer and Draftsman of the Department, viz. Mr. W. E. Batchelor.

195. Have you any responsibility as to the necessity or sufficiency and goodness of the work done in the Locomotive Department: for instance, as to repairs to a locomotive engine, who orders the work to be done? Who determines the repairs that are necessary, and the way in which such repairs shall be executed? As to permanent way, who determines what repairs are necessary, and the best way of executing such repairs? Only and so far as responsibility can rest upon the head of the department. On purely technical matters connected with machinery and locomotives, the Locomotive Superintendent, upon all railways, is the highest authority. The heads of departments are always deemed the professional advisers of the Manager and Directors in all matters of technical detail belonging to their respective departments. It would be difficult to set limits or give a written definition of the limits to responsibility of each head of department. Ordinary repairs, the ganger of each section. There are nine sections on the Launceston and Western Railway.

196. Give a Return of the total amount of Indents for each year since the Railway has been managed by Government? Herewith.

197. Have the articles received under indent proved in every case satisfactory as to quality and sufficiency for the purpose required? Most satisfactory.

198. It is stated in the Return of the Department that the overseers have each 3 men, and each gang keeps 5 miles of road in repair: does this apply to the bridges? Yes.

199. Should extensive repairs to the bridges or buildings be required, under whose advice and directions would such repairs be executed? The Inspecting Surveyor, the professional adviser under the Permanent Way Department. The only work which will ever possibly require special professional skill is the Longford iron viaduct. The rest of the bridges could be renewed, if necessary, by any ordinary experienced mechanic.

200. In cases of difficulty, requiring technical knowledge, to whom would the Superintendent of the Locomotive Department apply for advice and instructions? The Locomotive Superintendent of any railway is the highest professional authority within the department. It is not usual for a Locomotive Superintendent to apply for advice on technical matters from another professional mechanical engineer: as, by his appointment as Locomotive Superintendent, he is supposed to have already mastered all the details of his profession.

201. Do the workmen and laborers give receipts for the wages paid to them every fortnight: if so, who witnesses such receipts? Yes. The Paymaster, Stationmaster, or Ganger.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1877.

MR. J. R. FRITH, *Overseer of Works, North Coast, examined.*

By the Chairman.—202. State fully your duties? My duties consist in marking out all works in the northern division of the Colony,—such as roads, bridges, police buildings; preparing designs for all bridges and buildings required; also designs for bridges and breakwaters, under “The Local Public Works Act;” specifications for all the works; regular supervision of all the department contracts; occasional supervision of “The Local Public Works Act” contracts; supervision of the telegraph lines at work, and building any new ones; and advising the Director of Public Works in anything occurring in my District.

203. Have you any arrears of work? Very little, except three country roads to mark out.

204. Are your duties greater than can be satisfactorily performed by one person? My duties are greatly more than I can perform in my office hours. When pushed, I have had to take home work and work two or three hours after my dinner, at 6 o'clock. I never have time to dine in the middle of the day. During my absence from the office there would be little for any one else to do, or that he could do satisfactorily, without he had command as local chief at this office, which would be expensive. I could do all the work in overtime if I were allowed a reasonable sum by the hour, or an increase proportionate to my salary, say £50 per annum. The last year I have worked overtime about equal to 50 days, besides the long hours in the saddle while travelling often 10 to 14 hours per day, and have never had any remuneration for such overtime.

205. Do your duties necessitate frequent absence from Launceston: if so, how much of the year would be thus occupied? I am often necessarily away from the office for two to six weeks at a time,—making surveys for works, marking out new lines of roads, and supervising works in progress. My District extends from Circular Head in the west to Mount Cameron on the east. I have been absent from the office, travelling during the last year, 156 days, and ridden 2467 miles.

206. Are you a partner in, or in any way directly or indirectly engaged in, any business other than your Government employment? I am not interested directly or indirectly in any partnership or business outside my office.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1877.

MR. W. H. CHEVERTON *called in and re-examined.*

By the Chairman.—207. Are you a partner in the Steam Joinery Works carried on by Mr. Ford? No: I hold a mortgage on the property, but have no interest in the business.

208. Are you a partner in the Tramway Company at Franklin, of which Mr. Innes is the manager? I have a share in it. I bought one of the shareholders out. I hold a claim on them.

209. Up to what date were you a partner with Mr. Andrews? Up to 1872 I was mixed up with him. I ceased altogether, I think, in October, 1872.

By Mr. Crisp.—210. Is it usual for the mortgagee to have a grant taken out in joint names of himself and the owner? No. At the time of the purchase of the property I thought of putting my son in the business; but, finding legal difficulties in the way, took a mortgage on the property, as advised by my solicitor. There was a piece of land on one side purchased jointly, but not mill site. I have no interest whatever in the mill. All large supplies of timber required by the Department are obtained by tender: contractors supply their own for small works. I know of no timber being used in this building down stairs which I ordered at Ford's the other day. If we require a job done, the man who does the work goes where he likes for timber. Clarke, the carpenter, was given this job; and I did not send him to Ford's mill for the timber. As Overseer of Works, I did not know that he went to Ford's for timber.

By Mr. Butler.—211. Is the yearly amount at the disposal of the Department sufficient for the purpose of keeping the main road in repair? Latterly the traffic has been less, and the amount has been sufficient. The vote of £500 in addition to the toll money may be sufficient to keep the drains and culverts clear, and any metal required for repairs. During the last five months the machine has been lent to the New Norfolk Road Trust,—owing to our money being expended. The number of men in attendance on the stone-breaking machine varies from 12 to 20, according to the quarrying, spreading, &c.

212. Do your duties necessitate your frequent absence from Hobart Town: if so, how much of the year would be thus occupied? This varies, and depends upon the works in hand.

213. How long in 1876? A return of my travelling expenses will show. I will furnish it. As near as possible, one-third of my time I am in the country.

214. Who superintends the works in Hobart Town and its neighbourhood in your absence? Mr. Moore did, when he was in office: there is no one else.

By the Chairman.—215. Explain why the notice is so short for the timber to be supplied for the Cascades Buildings? The reason was that the Department wanted the boards at once for seasoning. I think, in this case, it was a week's notice. The advertisement appeared in the *Mercury* of 20th January, calling for tenders for the 26th. To season boards they ought to be on hand for at least a twelvemonth.

WILLIAM CLARKE, *Carpenter, called in and examined.*

By the Chairman.—216. How long have you been in the Department? I have been six years in the Public Works Department,—two years in town and four years at the Cascades.

By Mr. Crisp.—217. How are you paid? I am sometimes paid by the day, and sometimes by piece-work. I am at work at present for the Government in the Parliamentary Library, at piece-work, on some new shelving. I was shown a schedule of prices by Mr. Smith, who asked me if I would do the work. Mr. Cheverton has to look at the work and timber. I saw him just now: he did not tell me where to get the timber.

By Mr. Crisp.—218. I did not ask you who ordered you to get the timber.

To Mr. Crisp.—219. I found all materials myself for the work now in hand, and went to Ford's to get the boards put through the planing machine. Mr. Smith referred me to Mr. Cheverton, who told me of the work; and he and I came to terms.

MR. JAMES GREGORY, *Master Builder, Hobart Town, called in and examined.*

By Chairman.—220. Are you aware that some of the leading men of business in Hobart Town habitually omit to respond to the advertisements for tenders for works required by the Tasmanian Government? Yes; I have done so for years past myself, because I have not sufficient faith in the Department in carrying out works in the same way as private works would be. I mean the supervision by Mr. Cheverton. It is commonly known in the trade that Mr. Cheverton is implicated or connected with persons in works; and we have no earthly hopes of getting a tender in that way.

To Mr. Butler.—221. If I were a successful tenderer for a job, I should not feel that the objections taken against my work would have fair grounds for them.

To Mr. Whyte.—222. I had occasion some years ago to tender for some works at the Hospital, and I had quite sufficient then to convince me that I was not fairly dealt with. I have tendered since occasionally at the suggestion of the late Mr. Falconer, and of Mr. Butler, both Directors of Public Works, but have been unsuccessful. I did not tender with the same confidence as I would to a private individual. I have never had any business transactions with Mr. Cheverton in my life. Mr. Cheverton has been connected with Mr. Andrews all along, and latterly with Mr. Ford deeply. Mr. Ford is contractor for some Government Works now.

I do not work for the Government. The Public Works Department never send to me to do little jobs or repairs.

By Mr. Crisp.—223. When a large job is tendered for in the city, how many tenders are usually received? A good many; they may vary from 7, 8, or 9, even 10 for a job of any size. I would not tender for the Cascades job, having no confidence in Mr. Cheverton.

To Mr. Butler.—224. A job of £5000 would have 7 or 8 tenders as a rule.

By Mr. Crisp.—225. What time ought to be given for tenders for a large supply of hardwood, so that the saw-mills down the river could compete? I don't know how often the mails go down; but say a week or a fortnight would be sufficient, or something like that. I have had to wait longer than a fortnight for an answer when writing to Mr. Chapman or Drysdale with reference to the supply of timber required for my works.

MR. GEORGE SMITH SEABROOK, *Master Builder, Hobart Town, called in and examined.*

By Chairman.—226. Are you aware that some of the leading men of business in Hobart Town habitually omit to respond to the advertisements for tenders for works required by the Tasmanian Government? I am. One of the reasons for this is, that many things are inserted in specifications for works which one party can do cheaper than another, and many things are omitted which ought to be done in certain cases. Of course I have always been under the impression that the Overseer of Works is connected with other parties, and it would not be worth my while tendering for works. I know I should not have a fair chance.

To Mr. Butler.—227. Take Ford's contract—there are many things in the specification which would be omitted on his part, but which would be strictly insisted on by me. The work required would be different to the specification. There was one case in which I tendered for heavy timbers for the Commissariat Stores, which was to be thoroughly seasoned. Reid was the successful tenderer. I question whether the timber was seasoned.

I could hardly say I should expect my work to be impartially supervised. I could not expect the same favour from the Overseer of Works as Mr. Ford would get. I decline tendering for Government Works. I never had a Government Contract. I tendered for one only. I have done day-work in the Parliamentary Buildings.

228. If there were tenders out for a large job, say £5000 of private work in the city, how many tenders would you expect to be sent in? About six from competent persons; I don't see any difference between Government and private contracts; we are always paid by private persons without difficulty in that way, on the certificate of the architect.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1877.

J. W. BROWN, *Esq., Contract Surveyor, called in and examined.*

By Chairman.—229. Will you favour the Commission with information as to any interests that you may hold in Gold Mining pursuits in this Colony; stating the District and the dates at which such interest began? I can hardly tell when my interest began, but my interest in the Nine Mile Springs Mine commenced in 1870 when it was first opened. I am still largely interested in it as a shareholder in a Public Company. I have no mine of my own. Nine Mile Springs Mine is in the district assigned to me as a Contract Surveyor. I hold no selections there.

By Mr. Butler.—230. Have you any other mineral interests? I am interested in the Tin Mines on the North East Coast. I fitted out one of the first parties to prospect the N. E. Coast. I have not the duty of surveying in that District.

231. Would there be any practical difficulty in calling upon applicants for Mineral Leases to stake out the position of their selection at or previous to the time of application? No, I don't think so, if it were understood at the first opening up of a Tin District. The miners are as a rule intelligent men, who understand the use of the compass as well as a surveyor, and could leave marks which might easily be picked up afterwards by a surveyor.

MR. SAMUEL BARRETT, *Coachman of the Royal Mail, called in and examined.*

By Mr. Butler.—232. What is the present state of the Main Road to Launceston? Very good; nothing the matter with it except here and there on the crown of the road where the metal has worked through. The road is better now than it was 20 years ago. I have been a driver of the coach for 24 years. The culverts are rather bad about Cleveland, but there is not much traffic on the road about that part.

Sheep travelling on the road cuts it up dreadfully in dry weather; they are on the move now towards the Lake Country. Five thousand sheep in dry weather damage the road more than five thousand horses.

The road is very good now in all its length, I would not wish to see it better; it is quite as good as the street in front of this building. The Main Line Railway is taking the waggon traffic away as far as Oatlands, nearly all the waggons are off that part of the road. The worst piece of all the road is near the Sand Hill at Launceston.

APPENDIX.

I.

RETURN of the Officers of the Lands and Works Office, showing the Dates of first Appointment and the particular Duties assigned to each.

CLERICAL DEPARTMENT.

H. J. HULL, *Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands*, 1st August, 1847.

The general superintendence and direction of the details of the Department. Conducting the correspondence and giving information to the public. The receipt and disbursement of all moneys paid into the office.

GEORGE F. LOVETT, *Confidential Clerk to Minister of Lands and Works*, 1st January, 1859.

Having charge of all correspondence relating generally to the Executive Government and the several Government Departments, minutes for Governor in Council, Government *Gazette* notices, the arrangement of Parliamentary Papers for printing, returns for Parliament.

Crown Lands.—Lending general assistance to Mr. Hull, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands; keeping a rent-roll of every lease issued for pastoral purposes under different Land Acts of the Colony, with particulars as to name, area, situation, date, payment of rent, &c., reminders sent, transfers carried out, memos. of transfers to Auditor and Treasury, preparing leases in duplicate for execution by Commissioner of Crown Lands and lessees, preparing descriptions for *Gazette* of lands for rental at auction. Affixing reserved rentals based on Crawford's reports, &c., returns for Parliament, preparing descriptions from original surveys to be inserted in grant deeds, certificates given of Location Orders. Preparing descriptions for *Gazette* of every lot, whether town, agricultural, or pastoral lands advertised for sale; calculating and affixing upset prices and general arrangement for advertisement.

Gold Fields and Mineral Leases Acts.—All correspondence in relation to Gold Fields with the Commissioner and others. Since the abrogation of the local Commissioners' office of Messrs. Chapman and Shaw, the general working of the Gold Fields Act and Regulation. Advertising a description of the proposed lease in *Gazette*, and Governor in Council's intention to grant lease. Preparing leases in triplicate, and affixing diagrams. Record kept of transfers of gold leases. Preparing leases in duplicate under "Mineral Leases Act," whether for tin, iron, coal, &c., and examination of diagram affixed to each lease. Certificates of registration under "Mining Companies Act."

Railways.—All correspondence with the Secretary and Manager of the Launceston and Western Railway and other Departments in connection therewith. (This duty transferred by the Colonial Secretary's Department on the taking over of the line by the Government in August, 1873.) All correspondence *re* Railways—Mersey and Deloraine, Launceston and Western, and Main Line Railway. Charge of railway plans, sections, &c. Railway orders for England.

FRANK LOVETT, *Junior Clerk*, 1st January, 1876.

Making out notices for and entering yearly instalments, and entering up new purchases under "The Waste Lands Act." Making out agreements for purchases. Making out notices for and entering payments of rent. Making out leases under "The Waste Lands Act." Monthly and annual returns. Entering all applications to rent and purchase, and diagrams of surveys. Entering all the correspondence of the office, and indexing the letter books. (During 1875, 9573, and from 1st January to 1st September, 1876, 6007 letters were entered and sent out.)

DRAFTING DEPARTMENT.

FREDK. J. WINDSOR, *Chief Draftsman*, 28th April, 1840.

The general management and direction of the work performed in the drafting and lithographic branches of the Department. Instructing District Surveyors (ten) in connection with the field operations. Checking the Surveyors' accounts with plans of the work executed by them in the field. Examining schedules with surveys prior to preparation of grant deeds. Examining grant deeds before being issued from the Department. Investigating applications for new grants. Furnishing information for certificates on applications for new grants. Preparing land sales for description, both purchase and rental. Charting applications for mineral sections under "The Mineral Leases Act, 1870." Charting all applications to purchase and lease lands under "The Waste Lands Act, 1870." Answering references from the Deputy Commissioner in connection with the crown estate to enable Mr. Hull to deal with the correspondence, besides many minor matters of detail it is utterly impossible to enumerate.

ALBERT REID, *Draftsman*, 18th August, 1856.

The final examination of all surveys received from the District Surveyors, frequently involving the replotting of the same, and the recalculation of areas. Reducing and charting the same upon the office maps, and comparing boundary lines with those of previous surveys. The thorough examination and charting of all surveys, showing lands for which new grants are claimed through the Supreme Court and Lands' Titles Office, and the preparation of descriptions for the same. The preparation of all diagrams of lands upon which the full amount of purchase money has been paid before the issue of grant deeds, and the descriptions for the same. Making out weekly returns of grant deeds issued, and keeping up records

of the same. The preparation of descriptions for proclamation in *Gazette* of boundaries of Electoral, Road, Municipal, and Registration Districts; also descriptions of new towns, reserves, and cross roads. Lists of lands leased and sold annually for Council Clerks of Municipalities. The preparation of lithographs for land sales. The compilation and preparation of new county maps.

In addition to the above regular duties, the preparation of maps required by His Excellency the Governor, the Colonial Secretary, Colonial Treasurer, and Minister of Lands, &c., &c., showing the roads and railways of the Colony, maps showing the alienated lands, post offices, public schools, proposed main roads, &c.; also lithographic transfers of maps referred to in reports submitted to Parliament, such as Mr. Sprent's recent exploration, and this year the drawing for the stone of the new flags of the Colony.

F. W. ABBOTT, *Draftsman*, 1st September, 1863.

Entering up plans kept in the map-room for the use of the public. Entering up diagrams on payment of deposits. Making lithographic transfers. Mounting maps. Entering up lithographs for the Public Works Department in connection with the expenditure of money for roads. Entering up plans of the different Municipalities, Police and Road Districts. Keeping account of all purchases under the 24th Section of "The Waste Lands Act." With Mr. Searl, giving information to the public, writing their applications, &c.; also entering all applications under the 24th and 38th Sections, making tracings to order surveys, &c.

FRANK SEARL, *Draftsman*, May, 1874.

Plotting all diagrams and plans received from the District and Real Property Act Surveyors (about 600 from 1st January, 1876, up to date). Calculating areas of same. Reducing and charting all tin selections after survey. Compiling plans from surveyors' diagrams. Attending all applicants for mineral sections, writing their applications, &c., and with Mr. Abbott, giving general information to the public. Entering all applications to purchase crown land. Mounting plans, &c.

E. R. W. CASTRAY, *Junior Draftsman*, 1st January, 1876.

Making tracings; affixing diagrams to mineral leases; assisting to mount plans, and other miscellaneous work.

ALFRED H. LOVETT, *Junior Draftsman*, 1st July, 1874.

Indexing the County Diagram Books: Already finished—Devon, 22 books; Somerset, 4 books; Kent, 5 books; Buckingham, 16 books; Dorset, 10 books; Monmouth, 13 books: Total 70 finished since 1st January, 1876. To be done—Wellington, 5 books; Pembroke, 7 books; Cumberland, 4 books; Glamorgan, 4 books; Cornwall, 2 books; Westmoreland, 8: Total 30. Indexing Town Diagram Books: Hobart Town, 8 books; Launceston, 8 books; township books, 20: Total 36. Preparing tracings and doing other miscellaneous work.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

WM. SMITH, *Clerk*, 12th January, 1863.

Conducting the clerical work of this branch of the department.

WM. C. CATO, *Junior Clerk*, 8th December, 1875.

Assisting in the clerical work.

WM. H. LORD, *Draftsman*, February, 1875.

Preparation of plans, and drafting work of office generally.

W. H. CHEVERTON, 1st September, 1860, and J. R. FRITH, 11th January, 1866, *Overseers*.

To take particulars of all works, prepare specifications, submit designs, or assist in their preparation; report on all matters before expenditure incurred; supervising works; paying wages of men on day-work; certifying to accounts, &c.

LITHOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT.

R. C. ECKFORD, *Lithographer*, 1st February, 1872.

All the Lithographing in connection with the department. (4000 large sheets of county maps, 1360 sheets of miscellaneous work, and 2250 copies of the new flags of the Colony, have been struck off since 1st January, 1876.)

H. J. HULL, *Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands*.
25th September, 1876.

RETURN of Officers and others in the Lands and Works Department on the 30th September, 1876.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Rank or Designation.</i>	<i>Rate of ordinary Pay.</i>
		£
H. J. Hull	Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands	330 per annum
George F. Lovett	Ministerial Clerk	250 ditto
Frank Lovett	Junior Clerk	50 ditto
F. J. Windsor	Chief Draftsman	300 ditto
Albert Reid	Draftsman	225 ditto
F. W. Abbott	Ditto	150 ditto
Frank Searl	Ditto	100 ditto
Alf. H. Lovett	Junior Draftsman	60 ditto
E. R. W. Castray	Ditto	50 ditto
R. C. Eckford	Lithographer	100 ditto
Wm. Smith	Clerk, Public Works	200 ditto
W. C. Cato	Junior Clerk, ditto	60 ditto
W. H. Lord	Draftsman, ditto	140 ditto
W. H. Cheverton	Overseer, ditto	275 ditto
Geo. Self	Temporary Assistant, ditto	1 per week
H. M'Loughlin	Ditto to Lithographer	Ditto
A. T. Creswell	Volunteer	
Thos. Garrard	Ditto	
F. J. Boothman	Clerk and Draftsman, Launceston	200 per annum
Thos. Hand	Messenger, ditto	100 ditto
J. R. Frith	Overseer, Public Works, ditto	250 ditto
Geo. Fowler	Office-keeper and Messenger	100 ditto
Albert Page	Junior Messenger	26 ditto

H. J. HULL, *Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands.*

II.

RETURN of Amounts paid or to be paid for Extra Services in the Lands and Works Department on account of the Period from 1st January to 30th September, 1876.

<i>To whom paid.</i>	<i>Rank or Designation.</i>	<i>Nature of Service.</i>	<i>Rate of Payment.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>
				£ s. d.
H. M'Loughlin	Assistant Lithographer	Assistance to Lithographer	£1 per week	39 6 8
Albert Reid	Draftsman	Engrossing grant deeds and preparing lithographic transfers	—	91 4 0
Geo. F. Lovett..	Ministerial Clerk	Ditto	—	37 10 0
R. C. Eckford..	Lithographer	Extra lithographing	—	4 4 0
E. C. Rowntree	Architect	Preparation of drawings, and assistance in completing plans, &c.	Paid according to value of work done	56 0 0
C. J. Young....	Draftsman	Assistance in drafting to complete plans, tracings, &c.	Ditto	6 12 0
A. T. Morrison..	Draftsman and Surveyor	Assisting Overseer of Works in laying out roads and tracks; also assisting in preparation of plans, tracings, &c.	14s. per diem when absent from Town, and 10s. in office	68 0 0
Geo. Self	Temporary Clerk	Assistance in clerical work	£1 per week	4 0 0
W. C. Cato	Junior Clerk	Copying specifications, and other work after office hours.	—	5 0 0
J. Cunningham	—	Inspecting works, Ringarooma	—	1 0 0
				£312 16 8

H. J. HULL, *Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands.*

III.

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE.	NAME.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY.		SALARY.	REMARKS.
		<i>Under Company and Commissioners.</i>	<i>Under Government.</i>		
GENERAL OFFICES.					
Secretary and Manager	R. W. Lord	3 Dec. 1869	3 Aug. 1872	£400	General charge of Department, and communi- cation with Government.
Accountant, Traffic Auditor, Storekeeper	R. M. Johnston	20 Aug. 1870	3 Aug. 1872	£300	Charge of accounts and stores, and auditing station accounts.
Cashier and Paymaster.....	Aubrey Weedon	11 Mar. 1870	3 Aug. 1872	£200	Receives and banks daily cash, pays wages, and Assistant to Manager.
Clerk in Audit	Wm. H. Lovett	—	13 April, 1874	£120	Checking daily and weekly returns, and Assistant to Accountant.
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT.					
<i>Launceston.</i>					
Station Master	J. W. Israel	1 Feb. 1871	3 Aug. 1872	£165	Clerk in charge of goods and passenger traffic.
Goods Clerk	E. Ayton	—	1 Feb. 1873	£120	Invoicing, and receiving goods in warehouse.
Booking Clerk	F. Maddox	—	12 June, 1876	£50	Booking passengers and parcels, and keeping returns and working telegraph.
Porter	R. C. Howard	1 Feb. 1871	3 Aug. 1872	6s. p. d.	Charge of platform, passengers' luggage, &c.
Porter	R. Harrison	—	—	5s. p. d.	Cleaning lamps, carriages, &c.
Guard	W. Quarry	—	—	7s. p. d.	Charge of train when on the road.
Pointsman	A. Cummings	—	20 Oct. 1873	7s. p. d.	Shunts the trains, charge of points and crossings, serew couplings, &c.
Goods-shed Porter ...	J. Robertson	—	9 April, 1875	6s. p. d.	Loading and unloading goods trucks.
Messenger	J. Brown	—	—	5s. p. d.	Clean offices and take messages.
Night Watchman	A. Fraser	—	—	5s. p. d.	Night watchman.
<i>Evandale.</i>					
Station Master	H. E. Darby	1 Feb. 1871	3 Aug. 1872	£120	Clerk in charge of goods and passenger traffic and telegraph.
<i>Perth.</i>					
Station Master	C. M. Galer	—	1 Aug. 1874	£100	Ditto.
<i>Longford.</i>					
Station Master	F. Ferguson	1 Feb. 1871	3 Aug. 1872	£160	Clerk in charge of goods and passenger traffic.
Goods Clerk	W. Woolnough	—	1 Aug. 1874	£60	Invoicing and receiving goods in the ware- house, and working telegraph.
Porter	G. Bissell	—	5 Jan. 1874	5s. p. d.	Goods and passengers.
Porter	J. Cartledge	—	Sept. 1873	5s. p. d.	Ditto.
Night Watchman	J. Beazely	—	Sept. 1873	27s. p. w.	Night watchman.
<i>Hagley.</i>					
Station Master	D. Parry	—	1 April, 1873	6s. p. d.	Clerk in charge of goods and passenger traffic and telegraph.
<i>Westbury.</i>					
Station Master	F. Clark	—	1 Mar. 1873	£100	Ditto.
<i>Exton.</i>					
Station Master	W. Woolnough	—	2 Aug. 1872	£72	Ditto.
<i>Deloraine.</i>					
Station Master	C. Harris	1 Feb. 1871	2 Aug. 1872	£150	Ditto.
Porter	R. Cottam	—	10 Nov. 1873	5s. p. d.	Goods and passengers.
Porter	J. Griffiths	—	Jan. 1876	5s. p. d.	Ditto.
Twenty-one Gatekeepers at Public Crossings	—	—	2 Aug. 1872	1s. p. d.	
LOCOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT.					
Locomotive Superintendent ..	W. E. Batchelor	April, 1870	2 Aug. 1872	£250	Charge of locomotives, carriages, and wagon.
Fitter	J. Coates	—	Dec. 1874	11s. 6d. p. d.	Rolling stock repairs.
Fitter	W. F. Lord	Mar. 1871	2 Aug. 1872	10s. p. d.	Ditto.
Engineman	C. Saunders	1 Feb. 1871	2 Aug. 1872	11s. p. d.	Driver.
Engineman	C. P. Saunders	1 Feb. 1871	2 Aug. 1872	11s. p. d.	Ditto.
Engineman	J. Patten	1 Feb. 1871	2 Aug. 1872	11s. p. d.	Ditto.
Fireman	T. Wilkinson	—	Sept. 1874	7s. 6d. p. d.	Fireman.
Fireman	J. Wilkinson	—	Sept. 1874	7s. 6d. p. d.	Ditto.
Fireman	T. Douglas	—	Aug. 1872	7s. 6d. p. d.	Ditto.
Painter	R. Easther	—	April, 1874	10s. p. d.	Painting rolling stock, buildings, &c.
Carpenter	T. Ruston	Feb. 1871	2 Aug. 1872	10s. p. d.	Carriage and wagon building and repairs.
Joiner	B. Duff	—	Jan. 1876	9s. p. d.	Ditto.
Blacksmith	J. Brown	1 Feb. 1871	Aug. 1872	10s. p. d.	Iron work for carriages, wagons, &c.
Striker	H. Butterworth	1 Feb. 1871	Aug. 1872	6s. 6d. p. d.	Striker.
Storeman	S. Smith	1 Feb. 1871	Aug. 1872	7s. p. d.	Issue of stores, fireman to stationary engine.
Pumper	C. Johnston	—	Jan. 1875	7s. p. d.	Works steam pumps at Longford and Delo- raine.
Labourers, 4, each	—	—	Aug. 1873	5s. p. d.	
PERMANENT WAY DEPARTMENT.					
Inspector	L. Dowling	Feb. 1871	Aug. 1872	£250	Control of permanent way and works.
Gangers, 9, each	—	—	Aug. 1872	7s. p. d.	Each in charge of 5 miles of the road and gang of 3 men.
Labourers, 27, each	—	—	Aug. 1872	5s. p. d.	Repairs to permanent way.

IV.

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

LIST of Indents forwarded to England through Mr. J. F. L. JETTER, B.A., C.E., Inspecting Engineer for the Launceston & Western Railway in London.

	£	s.	d.
6 Steel Crossings, lead 1 in 10, at £25 each.....	150	0	0
100 tons 72-lb. Rails.....	1000	0	0
1 pair of leading wheels for Engine, No. 5	30	0	0
2 Cranes to lift 5 tons	240	0	0
TOTAL.....	£1420	0	0

R. W. LORD, *Secretary and Manager.*
23. 12. 76.

V.

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

TOTAL Amount of Indents, 1873-6, including the extraordinary Addition to Equipment made by the Government at time of Transfer, amounting to £6306 6s. 9d.

Additional Stock ordered by Government at the time of transfer.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1873. Wheel Tyres, Steam Pumps and Boilers, Axles, 2 Break Vans (Passengers), Iron work for new Goods Wagons, Break Van Springs, Buffers, freight, &c.	3490	17	11			
1874. New Engine and Tender (No. 5), Planing Machine, freight, &c.....	2815	8	10			
				6306	6	9
Ordinary Stores, &c., since transfer.						
1874. Oils, Colors, Varnish, &c., freight.....	..			409	4	9
Switches and Crossings (renewals), freight .....	..			465	14	5
1875. Leading Springs, Crank Axle, New Wheel Press, Boiler Prover, Water Heater, freight, &c.....	532	18	0			
Cotton Waste, Iron Rails, freight, &c.	381	1	3			
				913	19	3
1876. Flange Rails, Carriage Wheels, Axles, Axle Boxes, Volute Draw Springs, Bearing Springs, Shields, freight.....	..			547	17	1
				£8643	2	3

ROBT. M. JOHNSTONE, *Accountant.*
3. 1. 77.

VI.

CASCADES GAOL BUILDINGS.

Ordered, That there be laid upon the Table of this House—

1. The Estimate under which Parliament sanctioned the sum of £5000 for defraying the cost of additional Buildings and Alterations at the Cascades Establishment, in Hobart Town.
2. The Name of the Architect employed to prepare the Plans and Specifications of the work, and the amount paid for such service.
3. The Plans and Specifications referred to.
4. The Amount of the accepted Tender for the work, and the Heads of Service against which the cost forms a charge.
5. A Statement showing the probable total Cost of completing the Works,—distinguishing the Amounts under the Contract from Stores and Materials to be supplied by the Government.
6. The probable Cost of Supervision. (*Mr. Gray.*)

Re Works, Cascades.

1. No detailed Estimate was prepared or submitted to Parliament, nor could this be done until plans and specification particularly defining the work had been prepared. The sum of £5000 was merely an approximate amount named by the Department.

2. The plans were designed and partially prepared by the Department. Assistance, however, was obtained from Mr. E. C. Rowntree to complete the drawings, who was paid for his services the sum of £25 10s.

3. Plans and Specifications herewith.

4. £5350, and prices as per schedule for extras or deductions. To be charged to vote of £5000 under Act. Balance £273 7s. 1d. of vote under Act 31 Vict. No. 24. Balances of votes 1876 and 1877 on Estimates for Gaols, Alterations and Repairs to Gaols. Further provision to be made for excess.

	£	£
5. Contract	5350	
Timber, glass, iron.....	500	
Contingencies.....	150	
	<hr/>	6000
Extras not previously anticipated, say..	1150	
Architect's fees	200	
Clerk of Works	150	
	<hr/>	1500
<i>Total</i> .....	..	<hr/><hr/>£7500

6. Answered as above,—say £350 to £400. (Paid Overseer Moore £34 8s. 6d.)

WILLIAM SMITH, *Clerk Public Works.*
26 Sept., 1876.

THE PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION ACT, 1875.

For defraying the Cost of additional Buildings and Alterations at the Cascades Establishment in Hobart Town.

VOTE—£5000.

Plans and specifications were prepared for these works and tenders received in April last. The lowest, that of E. G. Ford at £5350, was accepted; also for any extras or deductions that might be ordered by the Director of Public Works at the prices stated in Schedule attached to tender.

Mr. James Moore, who had been previously employed for several years as working overseer with Prison Gang, being a mason and bricklayer by trade, was appointed as overseer constantly to supervise these works.

Under date 31st August this contract was placed under the supervision of Mr. Henry Hunter, Architect, who has appointed a Clerk of Works instead of Overseer Moore, whose services in this respect were discontinued from the 2nd September.

Certain materials are provided by the Government for these works; viz. iron and glass obtained from England, hardwood boards supplied under separate contract, and bricks procured from Port Arthur.

Owing to unforeseen circumstances in connexion with bad foundations and nature of ground a large expenditure has been incurred for concrete which was never anticipated when plans were prepared. The total cost of works under present contract is estimated as under—

	£	£
Contract	5350	
Timber, glass, and iron.....	500	
Contingencies.....	150	
	<hr/>	6000
Extras, most of which is for concrete not previously anticipated, say.....	1150	
Architect's fees	200	
Clerk of Works	150	
	<hr/>	1500
		<hr/> <hr/> £7500

Expended, as per details £1522 17 6

(Parliamentary Paper, No. 109.)

NAME.	PARTICULARS.	AMOUNT.
		£ s. d.
ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS AND ALTERATIONS AT THE GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION, CASCADES.		
39 Vict. No. 22, Public Works Act, 1875, and 31 Vict. No. 24.		
W. Clark.....	Making racks for packing timber, February, 1876.....	1 12 0
E. C. Rowntree....	Payment on account of plans, &c., Cascade Works, March.....	10 0 0
Ditto.....	Balance on ditto.....	15 10 0
W. Clark.....	Packing boards, &c., March.....	3 4 0
Davies Bros.....	Advertising for tenders for boards and works, January.....	2 8 0
H. Chesterman....	Boards as per contract, February and March.....	272 14 6
Jas. Moore.....	Extra allowance to overseer prison gang for mechanical labour, January to March.....	1 19 0
Ditto.....	Overseer on repairs and supervising works, June.....	11 1 0
E. G. Ford.....	First instalment on contract for works, Cascades, July 19th.....	600 0 0
W. Clark.....	Procuring bricks at Port Arthur for Cascades, June.....	3 4 0
Wm. Mead.....	New box-cart for procuring bricks, ditto, August.....	12 0 0
Wm. Connolly....	Carting bricks to water's edge, Port Arthur, for shipment. July and August.....	7 4 11
Ditto.....	Ditto.....	20 0 0
Ditto.....	Ditto.....	3 8 1
Jas. Moore.....	Supervising works at Cascades, August and September.....	12 6 6
A. T. Morrison....	Making tracing of plans.....	2 10 0
E. G. Ford.....	2nd instalment on contract for additional buildings, September 16th.....	500 0 0
Hy. Chesterman...	Timber for stacking boards, February.....	4 2 0
Wm. Mead.....	Cartage of bricks, schooner to Cascades, June, July.....	2 2 0
Jas. Moore.....	Supervising works at Cascades, July.....	11 1 0
Thos. White.....	Assisting in procuring bricks, June and July.....	3 2 6
Wages Abstract....	Men procuring bricks at Port Arthur, July.....	23 8 0
		<u>£1522 17 6</u>

MEMORANDUM.

WILL Mr. Henry Hunter be good enough to furnish the following for the information of the Government:—

Required to know the cost of the present works at the Cascades so far as carried out under Mr. E. G. Ford's Contract; viz., what he considers would be a reasonable amount to be paid the Contractor for work done in the event of the work being stopped.

Also the value of the Materials on the ground, and the cost of the Materials purchased by the Government.

Also the cost of re-roofing that portion of the old buildings and cells at present uncovered, erecting the outside boundary wall, and putting the building in a proper state of repair.

C. O'REILLY, *Minister of Lands and Works.*
19th October, 1876.

MEMORANDUM in reply to Enquiries from the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works, dated 19th instant, relative to Gaol Buildings at Cascades.

1. VALUE of work done to date, including probable amount of compensation to be paid in the event of the works being discontinued £2257
Of this sum £1100 have been already paid to Contractor.
2. Value of Materials on the ground, including cost of Timber, Iron, and Glass supplied by the Government £1693
This includes Slates and Lead ordered by the Contractor from England and now on the voyage out, the probable cost of which, Mr. Ford informs me, will be about £900 landed here. The cost of the Port Arthur bricks is not included.
3. Probable cost of re-roofing that portion of the old buildings and cells at present uncovered, erecting outside boundary wall, and putting the building in a proper state of repair, would be £1795
This includes re-erection of a Mess-room and Workshop at end of the large yard, which was pulled down, and which Mr. Boyd tells me could not be dispensed with. Another building has been pulled down also to make space for proposed new kitchen, &c. I have not, however, calculated upon rebuilding this.

£5745

There appears to be an impression that I have stated, or it is inferred from my Report, that the site of these buildings could not be drained. I neither stated, nor did I wish it to be inferred, that I held any such opinion. The site can easily be drained, but, as I said in my Report, "great additional expense must be incurred upon a proper and efficient system of drainage."

HENRY HUNTER, *Superintending Architect Cascades Gaol Buildings.*
18, Macquarie-street, 20th October, 1876.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.

NOTE.—Paragraph 2 states Value of Materials to be £1693. Of this sum the Iron, Glass, Slates, and Lead represent about £1200, and would remain in the hands of the Government, available for use upon other works. No portion of these would be required in reinstating the old buildings.—H.H.

VII.

[*Gazette of the 25th.*]

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE.

Hobart Town, 20th January, 1876.

TENDERS will be received till noon on the 26th inst. for the supply of Hardwood Boards for the "Cascades," in accordance with the specification which can be seen at this Office.

(Signed) WM. MOORE, *Director of Public Works.*

TIMBER REQUIRED AT THE CASCADES.

<i>Description.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Length.</i>	<i>Breadth and thickness.</i>	<i>Total in feet, sup.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
		feet.			
Boards	3000	14	5 in. \times 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.	21,875	These boards to be cut out of the best stringy bark trees, not less than 3 ft. 6 in. diameter; straight grained, free from gum veins, sap, heart shakes, and all other defects, cut on the quarter to regular widths, thicknesses, and straight.
Ditto	1000	12	5 in. \times 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.	6250	
Ditto	3000	16	6 in. \times $\frac{3}{4}$ in.	24,000	
	1000	12	6 in. \times $\frac{3}{4}$ in.	6000	
				58,125	

The whole of these boards to be delivered at the Cascades within one month from the date of acceptance of Tender in the following proportions:—One-third in a fortnight, and balance within the 4 weeks.

Offers will be received for the whole or any portion of same.

THIS is a Memo. furnished by the Overseer of Works to the Hon. the Minister, who directed that Tenders should at once be invited for the supply and delivery of this timber at the Cascades,—(*vide* advertisement in newspaper), and which were received on 26th Jan. 1876. (2 only—C. Deardon; Facy, Hay, & Co.)

WILLIAM SMITH.
28. 8. 76.

Hobart Town, 26th January, 1876.

SIR,

IN compliance with your application for the supply of boards for "Cascades" I beg to tender for one-half the quantity of each kind; viz.—5 in. \times 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. at 8s. 6d. per 100 ft.; 6 in. \times $\frac{3}{4}$ in. at 9s. 6d. per 100 ft. For the whole quantity; viz.—5 in. \times 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., at 8s. 9d. per 100 ft.; 6 in. \times $\frac{3}{4}$ in., at 9s. 9d. per 100 feet.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. DEARDON, *Manager,*
Garden Island Creek Saw Mills Company.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands & Works.

APPROVED for the whole.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.
26. 1. 76.

THE original of this was sent to Treasury on 25th April, 1876, with C. Deardon's account for boards.

W. SMITH.
29. 8. 76.

Hobart Town, 26th January, 1876.

SIR,

In accordance with an advertisement in this morning's *Mercury*, we beg to tender for the supply of hardwood boards, to be delivered at the Cascades, at the following rate; viz.—Ten shillings (10s.) per 100 feet, all or none. An immediate answer will oblige. The barge *Hero*, belonging to our establishment, is detained specially until the result is known.

We are, &c.,

(Signed) FACY, HAY, & CO

The Hon. the Director of Public Works.

VIII.

RETURNS of extra Cost of Plans and Specifications prepared outside the Department, and Supervision executed, since 1872.

Name of Work.	Cost of Plans and Specifications.	Cost of Supervision.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Penguin Creek Breakwater ..	9 12 0	126 0 0	Special officer employed at 10s. per day to supervise this work.
Emu Bay Jetty .....	..	30 0 0	Special officer employed.
Huon River Bridge	10 0 0	202 3 0	Work completed, 10s. per day to special officer.
Mersey Bridge	112 4 0	55 0 0 (say)	Promoters had 2 or 3 designs prepared for this bridge. Supervised by Mr. R. Oldham at 2½ per cent. on contract sum.
Aitken's Ford Bridge	4 17 6	256 0 0	Promoters propose deducting the cost of supervision incurred through delay of contractor from balance due to him.
Meander Bridge .....	..	100 10 0	Work not yet completed. Special supervision still employed at the rate of 10s. per day.
Table Cape Breakwater .....	..	35 0 0	Work still progressing. Special supervision still employed at £2 per week.
Black River Bridge	1 10 0	81 10 0	Work completed. 10s. per day paid for special officer to supervise.
Don Breakwater	27 10 0	50 0 0	Amount not yet paid for supervision. Special officer employed.
Ouse Bridge	14 10 0	..	} These bridges have not yet been commenced. A tender has been accepted for the Ouse bridge, but no arrangements made for supervision.
Plenty Bridge	10 8 0	..	
These are Special Works carried out under the provisions of "The Local Public Works Act." In each case the Promoters have a Special Officer to supervise the work: the cost of this supervision is paid for in the same way as the work. The Department supervises on behalf of the Government.			
WILLIAM SMITH.			
Deloraine and Circular Head Telegraph .....	..	133 7 4	Special supervision over the construction of this line of telegraph.
Cascades Buildings	28 0 0	162 7 0	Superintending, Architect's Fees, and Clerk of Works
George's Bay, Roads, &c. ....	..	86 0 0	Special services by Mr. Human, C.E.
Laying out Tracks and super- vising works, &c. ....	..	57 2 0	Assistance to lay out roads, &c., also marking out tracks.
Sundry works	41 4 0	22 18 0	Assistance to prepare plans, &c. for sundry works, also to lay out roads under Waste Lands Act.

WILLIAM SMITH, Clerk Public Works.
10 January, 1877.

IX.

RETURN of Tradesmen employed on Repairs not under Contract, with the Total Amount paid to each, during the Year 1875.

<i>Name of Tradesman.</i>	<i>Amount paid to each during the Year.</i>			<i>Remarks.</i>
	£	s.	d.	
Whitesides & Son	207	7	7	The principal part of this expenditure was for furniture and repairs to furniture for His Excellency's Establishment.
Hamilton & Sons	646	8	1	
S. Smith	165	7	6	
Woolley	115	11	7	
Pearson	372	16	9	Blacksmiths' work, labour, materials:
Meech	152	19	6	
Hyatt	5	0	0	Painters' work, labour and materials. Out of the amount paid to Mr. Harbottle during 1875, £1241 12s. 6d. was for special works at Government House. A schedule of prices for certain labour and materials was taken in this instance beforehand, which was authorised by the Hon. the Minister.
Harbottle Brothers.....	1315	10	6	
Mullen & Son.....	153	13	10	
Maher	262	4	10	
Farmilo	37	11	2	
Day	8	0	0	
Roffey	338	11	10	Carpenters' work, labour and materials. Out of the amount paid to Roffey in 1875 the sum of £264 18s. 11d. was for labour and materials on special works at Government House.
Rigby	74	13	8	
James Burgess	15	19	0	
C. K. Ellis	68	5	2	
Briant	12	8	0	Principally work at Government House.
Healing	2	2	0	
Hobart Town Gas Company	104	7	8	Masons and Bricklayers' work, labour and materials. Special works at Government House and Queen's Asylum.
R. H. Stabb	84	17	5	
Geo. Green	225	16	1	
Reynolds	16	10	0	
Meseter	2	0	0	Bellhanger and Locksmith. The only tradesman in this branch of any repute in the City. Always employed by this Department. The principal portion of this sum was for work at Government House.
Coleman	98	4	11	
Rollins.....	0	6	0	Tinsmiths' work.
C. Davis.....	9	0	0	
Otto	17	1	4	Sundry works, Hobart Town.
Ray	3	18	6	
Launceston Gas Company	0	6	0	
Thomas	6	16	0	
Hickman	5	5	0	General repairs to Police and other buildings, &c. throughout the Colony.
Powell.....	1	10	0	
Mead	7	5	6	General works and repairs, &c. at Launceston.
A. Grubb	0	4	0	
J. A. Webb	14	0	0	
W. Hall	1	10	0	
W. Norris	7	0	0	
W. Carpenter	7	6	0	
J. P. Dooley	16	17	6	
Thomas White	10	12	6	
Stewart.....	5	9	0	
J. Upchurch	3	5	0	
R. James	10	0	0	
T. Lockie	7	13	6	
J. French	5	8	6	
Williams	39	19	2	
Wallbridge	11	8	9	
W. Titmus	9	3	0	
Anderson.....	0	10	0	
Templar	0	13	0	
Eustace	3	15	0	
Cooper.....	0	10	0	
Babington	0	8	6	
Peter	0	19	0	
Rodgers	1	10	0	
John Ellis	28	1	2	
TOTAL	£4722	16	0	

WILLIAM SMITH, Clerk Public Works.
10th Jan. 1877.

X.

EXPENDITURE on Main Line of Road from 1855 to 1876 inclusive.

YEAR.	TOLLS RECEIVED.	AMOUNT VOTED.	TOTAL EXPENDED.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1855....	1625 0 0	10,426 14 2	12,051 14 2	Maintained partly by contract and day work.
1856....	1837 5 0	12,882 14 6	14,719 19 6	
1857....	1975 15 10	10,024 9 8	12,000 5 6	
1858....	1923 17 6	6149 1 5	8072 18 11	
1859....	1851 1 8	10,840 13 6	12,691 15 2	
1860....	1586 15 0	8316 1 6	9902 16 6	
1861....	1725 0 0	11,134 14 11	12,859 14 11	
1862....	1757 10 0	6463 9 7	8220 19 7	
1863....	1702 10 0	3989 10 9	5692 0 9	
1864....	2072 0 0	6634 19 7	8706 19 7*	
1865....	2221 0 0	3766 8 6	5987 8 6	Day labour employed. Con- tracts taken for metal. Ditto for erection of bridges.
1866....	2355 0 0	1643 7 8	3998 7 8	
1867....	2350 10 0	1567 18 7	3915 8 7	
1868....	2185 0 0	1659 2 4	3844 2 4	
1869....	2250 0 0	2767 15 0	5017 15 0	
1870....	2066 3 5	3952 13 8	6018 17 1	
1871....	1913 5 8	3307 1 1	5220 6 9	
1872....	2017 13 8	167 14 8	2185 8 4	
1873....	2121 0 11	430 1 9	2551 2 8	
1874....	2030 0 0	409 2 5	2439 2 5	
1875....	1830 0 0	657 6 4	2487 6 4	
1876....	1640 0 0	Nil.	1640 0 0	
			to 1700	

* Damage by floods.

WILLIAM SMITH, Clerk Public Works.

XI.

Launceston, 17th January, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 13th instant, requesting me to make any suggestions my recent experience may enable me to offer for amendments in the Goldfields and Mineral Leases Acts and Regulations.

Goldfields.—I am of opinion the Goldfields Regulation Act, 1870, and the regulations made thereunder dated 14th March, 1871, contain all necessary provisions for the control and management of the goldfields in their present stage of development in this Colony. The regulations appear to meet all requirements, and I am not aware that any dissatisfaction exists in any quarter. There are three Mining Registrars, one stationed in Launceston, one in Fingal, and one in George Town; and three Mining Surveyors. My office is in Launceston, and I visit the several goldfields as often as occasion requires.

Minerals.—The Mineral Leases Act at present in force is a very imperfect measure and altogether inadequate, and does not give the necessary statutory power to frame regulations to meet the requirements of the rapidly increasing mining industry. The Bill which was printed for introduction into the House of Assembly last session contained all the provisions which appeared to be desirable to be passed into law, and I therefore presume you will not wish me to specify in detail what alterations I would suggest in the existing law. The short Act of last session authorising the appointment of Commissioners of Mines, with power to adjudicate in cases of dispute, has remedied the greatest defect in the Mineral Leases Act. My office is in Launceston, the most central and convenient position for all parties interested, and there are six Mining Surveyors, a staff which I believe is efficient. I visit the mines when necessary.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

BERNARD SHAW,

Commissioner of Goldfields and Commissioner of Mines.

PHILIP TURNER, Esq., C.B., Chairman of Royal Commission
Lands and Works Department.