

(No. 97.)



1869.

T A S M A N I A.

CLARENCE MUNICIPALITY ACCOUNTS.

PETITION OF RICHARD STRACHAN.

Presented by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed,
October 1, 1869.



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

The humble Petition of Richard Strachan.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner is one of the Councillors of the Rural Municipality of Clarence, in Tasmania.

That, in the beginning of the year 1868, your Petitioner took exception to the manner of keeping the Accounts of the said Municipality.

That, on the 26th December, 1868, a Committee of the Councillors was appointed to examine the yearly Accounts of the said Municipality, from which your Petitioner was excluded, contrary to the 166th Section of "The Municipalities Act."

That, on the 30th January, 1869, the said Accounts were laid on the Table of the said Municipal Council,—when your Petitioner requested the suspension of the Standing Orders, to appoint a time to examine the Accounts, which was refused.

That your Petitioner observed that the said Accounts were wrong, and gave notice to the Municipal Bankers that he would not personally be responsible for any Loan.

That, on the 27th February, 1869, your Petitioner denounced the said Accounts to the Municipal Council,—when your Petitioner was then granted the suspension of the Standing Orders, to appoint a Committee of the whole Council to enquire into the Accounts.

That your Petitioner met the said Committee on the 6th March, and was called upon to prove that the Accounts were wrong, which your Petitioner was prepared to do, and for that purpose called for the Municipal Bank-book, but it was not forthcoming; but, instead thereof, an extract from it, certified by one of the Bank Clerks, merely showing that the Balance against the said Municipality on the 31st December, 1868, was £131 7s., and £56 3s. 9d. had also been paid on the 3rd January for the Municipal Salaries due for December, 1868, which extract (and that alone) your Petitioner acknowledged to be correct; but, in the absence of the Bank-book, your Petitioner could not trace the payments made to the Municipality, and whether they were paid into the Bank, so that your Petitioner had to relinquish the task.

That, on the 27th March, the said Committee then brought up the following

REPORT.

THE Committee appointed by the Councillors of the Municipality of Clarence at a Meeting held by them, on the 27th February last, to inquire into the charges made by Mr. Councillor Strachan, to the effect that the Accounts as submitted to the Council were a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end, have the honor to report as follows :—

1st. That your Committee took the earliest opportunity of holding a Meeting for the purpose of submitting to Mr. Councillor Strachan, and going through, the whole of the Accounts; and that such Meeting was held on the 6th March instant, when the Books were inspected, and the Accounts generally; and the items particularly objected to and questioned by Mr. Councillor Strachan were, in a most painstaking, careful, and thorough manner gone through, explained, and discussed.

2nd. That at such Meeting the Accounts generally and specially were found to be correct in the minutest particular; and that the charges raised by Mr. Councillor Strachan were found to be frivolous in the extreme: in fact, so frivolous and unwarrantable that your Committee could, and can, only express their greatest surprise and deepest regret that a Councillor, associated with the Municipality for so long a period, could, with the materials beforehand and always at his disposal, make a charge so rash and so grave.

3rd. That Mr. Councillor Strachan's statements—from his position as a Councillor, and from his presumed possession of the confidence of a certain number of the electors—being supposed to lead to an erroneous and almost criminal impression, your Committee cannot comment too strongly upon the fact of Mr. Councillor Strachan having failed to establish even a ground for his charges.

4th. That therefore your Committee,—having regard to the pernicious effects which the statements and charges promulgated and made by Mr. Councillor Strachan have had, and may still continue to have,—can only, at least, in justice to themselves and the officers associated with the Council, recommend and strongly urge upon the Council that Mr. Councillor Strachan be at once called upon to apologise for conduct, to say the least, so obstructive, frivolous, and detrimental.

(Signed) HENRY DAWSON, *Chairman of Committee.*

27th March, 1869.

That, on the motion that the foregoing Report be adopted, your Petitioner moved an Amendment, "that it be not adopted," which was duly seconded by Councillor Maum; and your Petitioner was proceeding to show why the Report should not be adopted, when he was called to order by His Worship the Warden, and not allowed to speak to his Motion. Your Petitioner then intimated that he would bring the said Accounts forward in another way.

That your Petitioner has carefully examined the published Accounts of the said Municipality for the years 1866, 1867, and 1868, and firmly believes that there is a defalcation during the said 3 years to the amount of £458 7s. 11d.; the public money of the said Municipality, as the published Accounts and Analysis hereunto attached will demonstrate.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that your Honorable House will enquire into the matter in such way as to your Honorable House seems right.

And your humble Petitioner will ever pray.

R. STRACHAN.

30th September, 1869.



MUNICIPALITY OF CLARENCE.

ABSTRACT of the ACCOUNTS of the Municipality of CLARENCE from 1st January to 31st December, 1866.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance from 1865	—	58 5 2	Salaries and Contingencies	707	7	5
Grant in Aid to 30th September	424	10 0	Labour, cartage, &c., account Roads	191	3	11
Slaughtering Licences	4	5 0	Expenses, account Inquests	11	6	0
Dog Licences	53	10 0	Stationery and Printing	9	5	6
Fines and Fees	16	8 6	Fixing Ventilators and Shelving	3	2	0
Fees, Court of General Sessions	3	2 6	Insurance on Police Buildings	1	10	0
Road and Police Rates at Sixpence in the Pound	490	14 0	Fuel, £1.11s.; Scissors, Brushes, &c., 12s. 3d.	2	3	3
		992 10 0	3 Pistols for Police	0	9	0
<i>Debts owing to the Clarence Municipality.</i>			Repairs to Iron Chest	1	5	0
Grant in Aid due by General Government to 31st December	141	10 0	Interest on Overdrawn Account, Bank V. D. Land, 1865	3	15	1
Contribution in aid of Roads, ditto	125	3 6	Ditto, 1866	1	12	11
		266 13 6	Amount transferred from Police to Municipal Fund	209	6	0
Balance	—	28 6 5			1142	6 1
			<i>Police Reward and Superannuation Fund.</i>			
			Gratuity paid Sergeant Warman ..	1	0	0
			Ditto Constable Campbell	0	10	0
			Ditto Mrs. Warman, as Searcher ..	5	0	0
					6	10 0
			<i>Debts owing by the Clarence Municipality.</i>			
			Bank of V. D. Land	189	13	6
			Herald Office, Printing Account ..	4	9	6
			Sundry items for Election Expenses ..	2	16	0
					196	19 0
					£1345	15 1
		£1345 15 1	Balance down		£28	6 5

EDW. ABBOTT, *Warden.*
 JAMES YOUNG, *Treasurer.*
 D. STANFIELD,
 HENRY DAWSON, } *Councillors.*
 R. STRACHAN, }

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we have examined the above Accounts, and compared the Books and Vouchers therewith, and find them quite correct.

J. O. O. M'ARDELL, } *Auditors..*
 THOMAS LUBBEY, }

ANALYSIS of the CLARENCE ACCOUNTS for the Year ending 31st December, 1866, published in the Gazette, 29th January, 1867.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance from 1865	58	5 2	Municipal and Police Salaries	707	7	5
Grant in Aid to 30 September	424	10 0	Labour and cartage on Roads	191	3	11
Fees, Fines, and Licences	77	6 0	Expenses on account of Inquests, Stationery, Printing, Interest, &c.	34	8	9
Road and Police Rates at 6d. in the Pound	490	14 0	A Loan from one Fund to another is not expenditure, and, if entered here, the other side ought to be debited with the same amount—as in other Municipal Accounts	—	—	—
<i>Debts owing to Municipality.</i>			Gratuities to Constables and Mrs. Warman	6	10	0
Grant in Aid to 31 December	141	10 0	Debt to the Bank of V. D. Land for the payment of the above Salaries and Expenses ought also to be entered as Receipts, on the other side, else it will be credited twice	—	—	—
Contribution in aid of Roads, ditto	125	3 6	<i>Debts owing.</i>			
			Printing and Elections	7	5	6
			Balance	370	13	1
		£1317 8 8			£1317	8 8
Balance carried to 1867	£370	13 1				

MUNICIPALITY OF CLARENCE.

ABSTRACT of ACCOUNTS, *Municipality of CLARENCE, from 1st January to 31st December, 1867.*

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.									
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Grant in Aid to 30th June			283	0	0	Balance forwarded from 1866	—	—	28	6	5	
Ditto received on account, to 31st December			50	0	0	Salary, Warden	73	6	8			
Police Rates at 9 <i>d.</i> in the Pound			386	11	9	Council Clerk, ditto	140	0	0			
Road Rates at 3 <i>d.</i> in the Pound			128	17	3	Salaries, Police	417	8	9			
Dog Licences			56	15	0	Female Searcher	5	0	0			
Slaughtering Licences			4	5	0	Insurance on Police Buildings	1	10	0			
Fines and Fees			26	17	3	Cart-hire, Superintendent of Police..	1	1	0			
<i>Amount due from General Government.</i>						Repairs—Clock, 5 <i>s.</i> , Spouting, 40 <i>s.</i> ..	2	5	0			
Grant in Aid to Roads	64	8	7			2 Tanks, £8 18 <i>s.</i> , Brush, 5 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	9	3	6			
Ditto, Watch-houses	100	0	0			Accoutrements, Bedding, &c., on ac-						
Balance Grant in Aid Account—Po-						count of Police	1	14	0			
lice, &c.	15	3	0			Fuel, £2 8 <i>s.</i> , Stationery, &c., £5 9 <i>s.</i> ..	7	17	0			
			179	11	7	Expenses, Inquests	6	16	6			
						Ditto, Municipal Election	5	9	9			
						Interest on Overdrawn Account	8	12	7			
						Fees paid to Auditors	2	2	0			
						Labour, cartage, &c., on account of						
						Roads	241	8	1			
										924	14	10
						<i>Amounts due by Municipality.</i>						
						Marsh Brothers	1	9	3			
						Mercury, Printing Account	1	1	6			
						Times, ditto	0	18	0			
										3	8	9
						Balance	—	—	—	159	7	10
			£1115	17	10					£1115	17	10
Balance			£159	7	10							

EDW. ABBOTT, *Warden.*
 JAMES YOUNG, *Treasurer.*
 H. DAWSON,
 D. STANFIELD,
 E. MAUM,
 R. STRACHAN, } *Councillors.*

We hereby certify that we have examined the above Accounts, and compared the Books and Vouchers relating thereto, and find them correct.

J. O. O. M'ARDELL,
 THOS. LUBBEY, } *Auditors.*

ANALYSIS of the CLARENCE ACCOUNTS for the Year ending 31 December, 1867, published in the Gazette, 11th February, 1868.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.									
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Balance from 1866			370	13	1	Municipal and Police Salaries	630	15	5			
Grants in Aid to June and 31 December			333	0	0	Female Searcher, Inquests, Interest, Auditors, &c.	52	11	4			
Police Rates at 9 <i>d.</i> in the Pound			386	11	9	Labour and cartage on Roads	241	8	1			
Road Rates at 3 <i>d.</i> in the Pound			128	17	3	<i>Amount due by Municipality.</i>						
Licences, Fines, and Fees			87	17	3	Printing, &c.				3	8	9
<i>Amount due to Municipality.</i>						Balance				558	7	4
Grant in Aid to Roads	64	8	7									
Ditto to Watch-houses	100	0	0									
Ditto to Police Account	15	3	0									
			£1486	10	11					£1486	10	11
Balance carried to 1868			£558	7	4							

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CLARENCE.

ABSTRACT of the Accounts of the Municipality of Clarence from 1st January to 31st December, 1868.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1867		159	7	10	Salary, Warden, £50 ; ditto, Council Clerk, £104 3s. 4d.	154	3	4	
Grant in aid		191	17	11	Salary, Police, £457 7s. 3d.; Searcher, £5	462	7	3	
Police Rates		370	16	9	Insurance, £1 10s.; Repairs, &c. Roads, £128 19s. 4d.	130	9	4	
Dog Licences		48	0	0	Repairs, Police Building	78	11	0	
Slaughtering Licences		3	5	0	Repayment, General Government, £5 5s. 6d.; stands for tanks, £1 5s.	6	10	6	
Coach and Drivers' Licences		6	10	0	Matting, Police Office, £1 16s.; Coroner's Fee, £1 1s.	2	17	0	
Public-house Licence Fees		1	5	0	Stationery and Stores	16	13	10	
Fees and Fines		17	17	6	Fuel, £3 1s. 6d.; interest on over-drawn account, £4 2s. 9d.	7	4	3	
Net proceeds, old timber		0	17	8	Election Expenses, £4 8s. 8d.; Auditors, £2 2s.	6	10	3	
Balance		80	16	11	Sundry Acts of Council, Gazette Office	0	19	4	
					Amount available, Risdon Road	14	8	6	
		<u>£880 14 7</u>				<u>£880 14 7</u>			

HENRY DAWSON, *Ward n.*
 JAMES YOUNG,
 G. J. MORRISBY,
 W. HOLMES,
 DANL. STANFIELD, } *Councillors.*

We hereby certify that we have examined the above Account and compared the Books and Vouchers relating thereto, and find them correct.

J. O. O. M'ARDELL, } *Auditors.*
 THOS. LUBBEY, }

ANALYSIS of the CLARENCE ACCOUNTS for the Year ending 31st December, 1868, published in the Gazette 9th February, 1869.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Balance brought from 1868		558	7	4	Salaries, Warden and Council Clerk	154	3	4	
Grant in aid (less £61 13s. 11d. paid 17th February, 1869) included		191	17	10	Ditto Police and Female Searcher	462	7	3	
Police Rates at 9d. in £		370	16	9	Roads contracted for last year, but not paid until this year	128	19	4	
Licences, Fines, Fees, &c.		77	15	2	Repairs to Police Buildings	78	11	0	
		<u>£1198 17 2</u>			Insurance, Stationery, Elections, &c.	42	5	2	
					Available to Risdon Road (unpaid)	14	8	6	
					Balance	318	2	7	
		<u>£1198 17 2</u>				<u>£1198 17 2</u>			

Amounts received and not accounted for.

	£	s.	d.
Balance	318	2	7
Overdrawn from Bank of Van Diemen's Land	131	7	0
Ditto for December Salaries	56	3	9
Risdon Road, unpaid	14	8	6
	<u>£520 1 10</u>		
Part of £191 17s. 10d. not paid until 17th February, 1869...	61	13	11
Deficit	<u>£458 7 11</u>		

SYNOPSIS of the CLARENCE ACCOUNTS for the Years 1866, 1867, and 1868.

TOTAL ACTUAL RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
1866. Balance from 1865		58	5	2	1866. Salaries, Roads, &c.	933	0	1	
Receipts		992	10	0	Gratuities	6	10	0	
Debts owing to Municipality		266	13	6	Debts due by Municipality	7	5	6	
1867. Receipts		936	6	3	1867. Salaries, Roads, &c.	924	14	10	
Grants in aid due to Municipality		179	11	7	Debts due by Municipality	3	8	9	
1868. Receipts		578	15	11	1868. Salaries, Roads, &c.	866	6	1	
Received from Bank for 1868		187	10	9	Balance	458	7	11	
		<u>£3199 13 2</u>				<u>£3199 13 2</u>			

Balance brought down, not accounted for, £458 7s. 11d.