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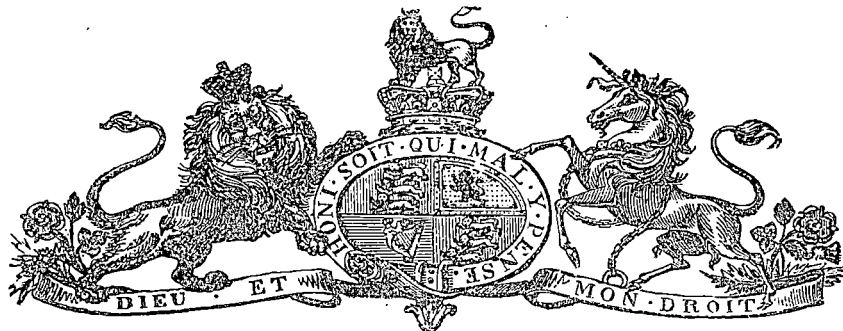
1886.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CENTRALISATION OF POLICE:

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

Brought up by Mr. Reibey, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, November 18, 1886.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed, on the 16th September, to enquire into and report upon the Question of Centralising the Police of the Colony; with power to send for persons and papers.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

DR. HUSTON.
MR. PILLINGER.
MR. BRADDON.
MR. BARRETT.

MR. FITZGERALD.
MR. DAVIES.
MR. REIBEY (*Mover*).

DAYS OF MEETING.

Thursday, 18th September; Thursday, 7th October; Friday, 8th October; Wednesday, 13th October; Thursday, 14th October; Wednesday, 20th October; Friday, 22nd October; Wednesday, 27th October; Thursday, 28th October; Wednesday, 3rd November; Friday, 5th November; Thursday, 11th November; Wednesday, 17th November.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Mr. J. Stevenson, Superintendent of Police, New Norfolk; Mr. J. Coulter, Superintendent of Police, Launceston; Mr. B. Shaw, Inspector of Police; Mr. F. Pedder, Superintendent of Police, Hobart; Mr. O. E. Hedberg, Superintendent of Territorial Police, New Town and Queenborough; Mr. R. Driscoll, Superintendent of Police, Port Sorell; Mr. Murray, Rokeby; Mr. H. Quodling, Superintendent Penal Establishment, Hobart; Mr. R. Armstrong, Superintendent of Police, Selby; Mr. H. Douglas, Stipendiary Magistrate, Latrobe; Mr. Frank Temperley; Mr. T. Perkins, Superintendent of Police, Bothwell; Mr. D. Burke, Warden, Westbury; Mr. Myles Mahoney, Superintendent of Police, Westbury; Mr. R. Propsting; Mr. C. O'Connor; Mr. G. A. Kemp, Acting Police Magistrate, Launceston; Mr. H. Lamb, Warden, Clarence; Mr. W. E. Morrisby, Council Clerk, Clarence.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

J. Coulter, £4 5s.; J. Stevenson, 17s.; T. Perkins, £2 10s. 6d.; R. Driscoll, £5 10s. 7d.; M. Mahoney, £4 15s.; D. Burke, £4 15s.; G. Kemp, £4 19s.; H. Douglas, £5 17s.

R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee have sat 12 times, and examined 15 witnesses, many of whom have had considerable experience of the working of both Territorial and Municipal Police.

Of those examined, Mr. Coulter, Superintendent of Launceston Police, is the only witness who speaks in favour of the present divided system without important qualification, and he admits that, as far as the interests of the members of the Force are concerned, a centralised Police would have advantages.

Mr. Pedder, Superintendent of Hobart Police, while warmly extolling the existing system on many grounds (Question 114), admits that at one time the Municipal and Territorial Police did not co-operate in the discharge of their duties, and (Question 122) that centralisation might secure concerted action.

Mr. Perkins, Superintendent of Bothwell Police, is in favour of the present system, but admits (Question 233) that the success of the Municipal Police system depends upon the character of the Warden.

Several witnesses who are, or have been connected with Municipal Police Government, speak distinctly in favour of centralisation.

Mr. James Stevenson, Superintendent of New Norfolk Police, supports centralisation throughout his evidence.

Mr. D. Burke, ex-Warden of Westbury, gives evidence to the same effect, and sums up (Question 320) thus: "I thoroughly believe efficiency cannot be satisfactory or so well carried out unless the whole Police Force is under one head, who should have entire control of the Police; but a system might be introduced by which Municipal Councillors should yet retain the appointment of Constables."

Mr. Myles Mahoney, Superintendent of Westbury Police, strongly advocates centralisation, and speaks of the present system of divided authority (Question 332) as injurious to the well-being of both services, and (Question 332) wanting in unity of action.

Mr. Propsting, ex-Superintendent of Hobart Police, is very emphatic in his condemnation of the dual authority.

Mr. Quodling, after 29 years' experience in the Municipal and Territorial Police, disapproves of the dual system.

Mr. Douglas, Police Magistrate at Latrobe, and ex-Warden of Deloraine, gives evidence decidedly favourable to centralisation, but would leave the Hobart and Launceston Police subject to Municipal direction, and give Magistrates generally some degree of authority over the Police.

Mr. George Murray, late Sub-inspector of the Clarence Police, speaks of Municipal mismanagement, but as he was personally interested in this, and his evidence is contradicted, the Committee will not attach any weight to that.

The evidence of Mr. B. Shaw, Inspector of Police; Mr. O. Hedberg, Superintendent of Territorial Police, New Town and Queenborough; and Mr. R. Driscoll, Superintendent of Police, Port Sorell, is strongly in favour of centralisation. None of these witnesses has had experience in the Municipal Force. Mr. Driscoll states two instances in which within his knowledge there has been a failure of justice owing to want of co-operation between Municipal and Territorial Police.

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Of 17 Municipal Wardens and Magistrates consulted by questions (see Appendix), eight said their experience of the present Police system was unfavourable, three said partly favourable, and six only favourable.

Of the 17 replies, eight only are in favour of divided authority. As to jealousy and want of concerted action arising out of division of Police, six say they do not occur, two give qualified answers, and 10 say "Yes."

As to necessity for a properly constituted Detective Force, five say this is unnecessary, two give qualified answers, and 11 say "Yes."

As to promotion and general control of Police, five say centralisation would effect no improvement, 10 say it would. In reply to Question 6, "Have you known any instances of jealousy or conduct tending to hamper the Police and frustrate justice, caused by the existing system of divided authority," 12 answer "No," one gives no reply, and five say they have known such instances, the Beaconsfield bank robbery being cited as one in point.

In reply to Question 7, one is in favour of present system, eight would extend Municipal system all over the colony, and nine are for a centralised Police under one head. Speaking generally, it may be said that there is a decided preponderance of opinion in favour of centralisation of the Police under one central head, with some demur as to the advisability of including the Hobart and Launceston Police in this centralised system, and with a strong feeling that the effect of any system of centralisation shall not be such as will in any degree impair the efficiency or limit the healthy power of Municipal institutions.

Your Committee consider that the present divided authority is injurious to the good working of the Police Force of the Colony, and can only be remedied by centralisation of the Municipal and Territorial Police under one administrative head, and they recommend the adoption of a system by which concentration of authority can be effected without depriving local authorities of all that control which in some of the Municipalities has been beneficial.

THOS. REIBEY, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, 17th November, 1886.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1886.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present.—Mr. Barrett, Mr. Reibey, Mr. Pillinger, Dr. Huston, and Mr. Braddon.

Mr. Reibey was voted to the Chair.

The Resolution appointing Committee (Votes and Proceedings, 16th September, 1886, No. 14), read.

The Chairman tabled the Progress Report and Evidence of the Select Committee on the Police System of the Colony of 1880. (House of Assembly Paper 132, 1880.)

Ordered, That Mr. Shaw, Inspector of Police, Mr. Pedder, Superintendent of Police, Hobart, and Mr. Coulter, Superintendent of Police, Launceston, be summoned for Wednesday, the 6th prox., at 11 A.M.

Ordered, That Mr. Hedberg, Superintendent of Police, Hobart; Mr. Mahony, Superintendent of Police, Westbury; Mr. Perkins, Superintendent of Police, Bothwell; Mr. Stevenson, Superintendent of Police, New Norfolk; Mr. Driscoll, Superintendent of Police, Port Sorell; and Mr. Burke, late Warden, Westbury, be summoned on dates hereafter to be determined.

Ordered, That the Committee Clerk request the Hon. the Treasurer to supply a Return showing the amounts raised by a 9d. rate in Police Districts and Municipalities, with detailed expenditure thereof for the year 1885; also a Return of amounts received from Government for Police purposes for the same period; also to apply to the Hon. the Attorney-General for a Return of all Police Prosecutions and Convictions in Police Districts and Municipalities for the year 1885.

The Committee adjourned until Wednesday, the 6th prox., at 11 A.M.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1886.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present.—Messrs. Braddon, Pillinger, Barrett, and Dr. Huston.

Mr. Braddon stated he had received a letter from the Hon. Thomas Reibey, who was prevented by indisposition from attending the Committee, and forwarding a list of questions which might be put to witnesses.

Mr. Braddon was then elected Chairman.

Mr. J. Coulter, Superintendent of Police, Launceston, was called and examined. During his evidence he tabled Returns of offences in Municipal and Territorial Districts during the years 1882-3-4, and showing the comparative cost of the two bodies of police in those years.

Mr. Coulter withdrew.

Mr. B. Shaw, Inspector of Police, was called and examined.

Mr. Shaw withdrew.

It was resolved that Mr. Pedder, Superintendent of the Hobart Municipal Police, be summoned to give evidence at 11 A.M. on Friday, 8th inst.

At 1 P.M. the Committee adjourned till 11 A.M. next day.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1886.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present.—Messrs. Braddon (Chairman), Pillinger, Barrett, and Dr. Huston.

Mr. F. Pedder was called and examined.

Mr. Pedder withdrew.

It was decided that Messrs. O. Hedberg, Hobart; J. Stevenson, New Norfolk; and Temperly, Mauritius, be summoned to give evidence on Wednesday, 13th inst.; Messrs. Driscoll, Port Sorell, and Perkins, Bothwell, on Thursday, 14th inst.; and Messrs. M. Mahoney and D. Burke on Friday, 15th inst.

The Committee adjourned at 1 P.M. till 11 A.M. on Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1886.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present.—Messrs. Braddon (Chairman), Barrett, Pillinger, and Dr. Huston.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. O. E. Hedberg was called and examined.

Mr. Hedberg withdrew.

Mr. J. Stevenson was called and examined.

Mr. Stevenson withdrew.

Mr. F. Temperly was called and examined.

Mr. Temperly withdrew.

The Committee adjourned at 12.50 P.M. till 11 A.M. on Thursday, 14th inst.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1886.

The Committee met at 11 10 A.M.

Present—Messrs. Braddon (Chairman), Barrett, Pillinger, and Fitzgerald.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. T. Perkins was called and examined.

Mr. Perkins withdrew.

The Committee adjourned at 12.15 till 11 A.M. on Wednesday, 20th inst.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1886.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—The Hon. Thomas Reibey (Chairman), Messrs. Pillinger, Braddon, Barrett, and Dr. Huston.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. D. Burke, Westbury, was called and examined.

Mr. Burke withdrew.

Superintendent Mahoney, Westbury, was called and examined.

Mr. Mahoney withdrew.

At 1 P.M. the Committee adjourned.

Resumed 2.30.

Superintendent J. Driscoll, Port Sorell, was called and examined.

Mr. Driscoll withdrew.

It was resolved that Messrs. Murray and Propsting be summoned for Friday; and Messrs. G. Kemp and W. Douglas for a date to be decided.

At 3.30 the Committee adjourned till 11 A.M. on Friday, 22nd inst.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1886.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Hon. Thomas Reibey (Chairman), Messrs. Braddon, Barrett, and Dr. Huston.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Richard Propsting was called and examined.

Mr. Propsting withdrew.

The Chairman tabled certificates as to the good character of Mr. Geo. Murray and his competency to discharge the duties of Sub-Inspector of Police at Richmond, from the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Henry Lamb, D. Stanfield, G. J. Morrisby, J. Chipman, W. G. Morrisby, T. Morrisby, U. Coombs, Rev. J. Rousell, J. Taylor; also one from Mr. Henry Lamb, stating that Mr. Murray had held the office of Sub-Inspector of Police at Clarence for five months, at which time he resigned.

Mr. G. Murray was called and examined.

Mr. Murray withdrew.

It was decided that Messrs. G. A. Kemp and H. Douglas be summoned to give evidence on Wednesday, 27th inst.; and Superintendent R. Armstrong for Thursday, 28th inst.

At 3.45 the Committee adjourned till 11 A.M. on Wednesday, 27th inst.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1886.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Hon. Thomas Reibey (Chairman), Messrs. Braddon and Barrett.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. H. G. Quodling was called and examined.

Mr. Quodling withdrew.

Mr. C. O. O'Connor was called and examined.

Mr. O'Connor withdrew.

Superintendent R. Armstrong was called and examined.

Mr. Armstrong withdrew.

Returns of all Police Prosecutions and Convictions in Police Districts and Municipalities for 1885 were tabled.

At 1.5 P.M. the Committee adjourned till 11 A.M. on Friday.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1886.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—The Hon. Thomas Reibey (Chairman), Mr. Pillinger, and Dr. Huston.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. G. A. Kemp was called and examined.

Mr. Kemp withdrew.

The Chairman laid the Report of the Select Committee on Police of 1880 on the Table—H.A., Paper No. 132, 1880.

At 1 P.M. the Committee adjourned till 11 A.M. on Wednesday, 3rd November.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1886.

The Committee met at 11.15 A.M.

Present—Messrs. Reibey (Chairman), Barrett, Pillinger, and Fitzgerald.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A Return was put in of Offences and Receipts and Expenditure in Municipalities and Municipal Districts.

Mr. Henry Douglas was called in and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 12.15 P.M. till 11 o'clock on Friday next, when it was resolved that Messrs. H. Lamb and Morrisby, of the Clarence District, should be summoned for examination.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1886.

The Committee met at 11.35 A.M.

Present—Messrs. Reibey (Chairman), Fitzgerald, and Pillinger.

Mr. Henry Lamb was called in and examined.

Mr. William Edward Morrisby was called in and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 12.45 till Wednesday next at 2.30 P.M., to consider its Report.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1886.

The Committee met at 2.30 P.M.

Present—Mr. Reibey (Chairman), Mr. Barrett, Mr. Braddon, Dr. Huston, Mr. Pillinger.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Draft Report was submitted and considered.

The Committee adjourned till Wednesday next, at 11 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1886.

The Committee met at 3.30 P.M.

Present—Mr. Reibey (Chairman), Dr. Huston, Mr. Pillinger, Mr. Braddon.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Draft Report was agreed to, and adopted.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

EVIDENCE.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1886.

MR. J. COULTER, *called and examined.*

1. *By Mr. Braddon.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of the Launceston Police.
2. How long have you held that position? I have been Superintendent over 20 years, and have been in the Launceston Police since its formation. I was one of the sub-inspectors appointed when the Launceston Municipal Police was formed.
3. What are your duties as Superintendent? I have the general control of the Launceston Municipal Police, attend to all correspondence in connection with crime and police matters with other districts; I take action in all cases of offences and breaches of the law; I attend all courts, criminal and other, in connection with police prosecution; I see to the good conduct of the town and non-infringement of by-laws; I assist the Municipal Council in keeping order in the town, and in every other manner I can. I also obtain information for the Government Statistician and other officers in connection with returns, when necessary; I make out and revise the jury list annually, and assist in making enquiries for the officer of charitable grants. I do not think the duties can be defined—I mean in connection with the police duties.
4. Are your limits confined to the Municipality of Launceston? Yes, they are strictly confined to that, but all municipal officers are constables for the whole Colony of Tasmania, but the officers are officers for the district only.
5. What is the numerical strength of your force? Officers included, it is 32; that includes the messenger of the police office, half of whose salary is borne by the Government; and also an officer who acts as inspector of nuisances.
6. What is your system as regards the appointment, promotion, and dismissal of police, and their general control? All candidates who apply, and whose exterior and certificates are satisfactory, I file the application. Of course, there are many who apply merely in expectation of getting on immediately, and if there is no vacancy their applications are not further entertained. When vacancies occur the applicants are examined by the police surgeon and if physically fit they are appointed. They then go on duty for several hours, generally at night, to get accustomed to the beats, and are drilled for several hours during the day and instructed in their duties.
7. They are practically a distinct body from any other body of police in the colony? Entirely distinct, having a special provision for superannuation, a provision which has been copied in some of the other bodies since. We pay into the superannuation fund from 5 to 7½ per cent., the amount being based on calculations made and fixed on the ages of the constables. We take no candidates over 30 years, and all under 30 years pay 5 per cent.; the deductions are fixed according to age, and every five years 1d. is added. I pay 1s. 4d. in the £ out of my salary to the fund. It is a very good fund, amounting to over £7000, and at the end of the current year will amount to £7500. We have already superannuated six constables, one of whom is dead, and five still remaining on the fund.
8. Do you find any difficulty arise in acting with the police beyond your jurisdiction? I think I have never found any difficulty myself. I have always got the assistance I applied for. Of course that assistance depends a great deal on the intelligence and activity of the officer of the district applied to. In any system of police that will always be the case.
9. Have you never experienced any difficulty, from the limited character of your jurisdiction, that you have no sort of control over the territorial police or police of any other municipality? No; I cannot say I ever found any difficulty in that respect. I think there is a great deal of misconception on that point. In reality the police organisation is exactly the same as it would be under a centralised police force, and anyone who has served in that force, as I have done, will know that each officer is strictly limited to his own district, as here. I have, perhaps, had better opportunity of observing this than any other man in the colony, from the positions I held during the years. I served in the Irish constabulary.
10. Do you think that the several bodies, differing so greatly from the Irish constabulary, which is one harmonious body for the whole country, may occasion difficulties to arise from the hesitation of police out of your jurisdiction, or beyond the jurisdiction of those concerned to act with you, in prosecuting a criminal enquiry? I have never experienced anything of the sort. The constable's duties are defined by law, and his responsibilities are defined by law. A constable will do his duty whether there is or is not difficulty in the way, and in any district. I will instance the railway rate at Launceston. It has been stated that there was difficulty in getting the rate summonses served, but every such summons was issued to me, and by me sent to the officers of the municipalities outside Launceston, and every police officer to whom I sent these summonses served them, although a majority of the councillors in two rural municipalities made objection to the police serving the summonses. The constable is the special officer of the magistrate, and his duty is to serve his summonses and execute warrants. If any officer had refused to serve them I would have prosecuted him. When Mr. Mason, the Police Magistrate, asked me what assistance I could give, I said every constable under my command would be employed, if necessary, to serve the summonses, and I would send to the country officers, and if they objected to serve them I would proceed against them, but the men understood their duty and did it.
11. Have you any reason to believe that members of the municipal police dare not do their duty independently, because they might have to proceed against a man to-day who would have authority over them to-morrow? None; that is altogether outside my experience. I have heard such things stated of country municipalities, but I have not had any experience of it, and I can say of Launceston certainly not. I never was interfered with, nor would I brook interference in what was my legal duty. I would never think of asking whether I was to do a thing or not. There is no such influence over a constable. The municipal council look to me, and if there was any dereliction of duty it would be my fault. I never was affected that way, neither was there any effort made to influence me.
12. Is there any difficulty in getting men? Yes; but our standard is high. We will take no men less than 5 feet 9 inches, and do not care to take them over 25 years, certainly not over 30 years; they must be sound in health, and free from bodily defect, must pass a medical examination, and be of good character.
13. And with that standard you experience difficulty in filling up the ranks? Yes, because the vacancies are very numerous. We have made two increases since December, 1878, and 60 men have passed into the force since that time, of whom only 20 remain.

Police.

14. Would it not improve your principle of government, and keep your force to a proper standard, if the police were centralised? I hardly think so, unless the towns were able to take the pick of the whole body, because there are more persons come to Launceston than any other place, and we give a higher rate of pay than any other place. Notwithstanding that, a great many find the work harder, and the advantages less than they thought it possessed; there are therefore a great many resignations in a short time, many of the men preferring to go into the country where the work is lighter; and of course some prove unsatisfactory, and are called on to resign.

15. Are you aware of any reasons which would favour centralising the police? There is one reason. I believe the majority of the country police would think it greatly to their benefit, and I think it would be to their benefit, and to the benefit of the police generally, but I am sure it would not be to the benefit of the community. I sink the interests of the police before the interests of the community, and certainly think the change would not be desirable.

16. If the police were centralised would it affect municipal action in any matter not connected with the police? I think it would seriously affect municipal action. There is considerable activity in municipal matters connected with their by-laws, which would not affect a centralised force. There are frequently complaints of little matters which the centralised force would take no notice of, because it would be a trouble to them. Perhaps nothing can better show the difference in the working of the centralised police and municipal police in minor matters than the return produced, which shows that there are 196 municipal police and 113 territorial police. The indictable offences reported for the three years ending 1884 were 1879 municipal and 863 territorial, the average per constable being 9.54 municipal, and 7.63 territorial; whilst the apprehensions were—municipal, 888, or an average of 4.53 per constable; territorial, 374, or 3.31; whilst offences determined summarily show—drunkenness, municipal, 4100, or an average of 20.91; territorial, 980, or 8.67; and breaches of by-laws, &c. municipal, 6382, or 32.56; territorial, 1275, or 11.28. This shows that in indictable offences the two forces are very nearly the same, but if you look at the offences dealt with summarily the difference is very marked. In minor offences there is nearly double the activity displayed in the one compared with the other.

17. Does not that rather tend to show the municipal police are responsible for a larger amount of drunkenness? It might be so, if it was the duty of the police to keep people sober.

18. To carry out the Licensing Act would not its provisions be better ensured if the police were not subject to local influences? Well, I think not. I find that the Licensing Act is as well carried out in municipal districts as in territorial districts. Is there not being a great deal too much made of the Licensing Act? I know it gets a large degree of prominence in the Inspector's Report, but it seems to me that the breaches of the Licensing Act are of a very trivial character, and the magistrates think so too.

19. Is that the view taken of the matter by the municipal magistrates? It is not municipal justices who deal with the matter, it is generally the police magistrate; the municipal justices only sit with him.

20. Do you think a proper detective police system necessary? I do not, because every constable should be a detective to a certain extent, for he is only in uniform during the hours he is actually on duty. An intelligent constable will take action out of his duty hours, and will always endeavour to bring offenders to justice. These are the men that will be so employed when occasion arises. If you make a specialty you reduce the general skill and efficiency of the men. The other men will not trouble themselves, and they think they have only to work whilst on duty. Police should not confine their work to the hours of duty, and should do their best to prevent crime.

21. Would it not be impossible to have a proper detective force unless centralised under one head? I think anything in the shape of a detective force is a mistake, and injurious to the general body of police, and takes from their efficiency.

22. That is merely an opinion; would it be practicable to have such a force without centralising the police, or having them under one head? Of course you cannot. All police forces, with sufficient numerical strength, have a couple of men set apart for that duty. There are one or two men in Hobart and Launceston specially set apart for that duty, but you could not have them in the country districts, where every man is an uniform constable and detective constable of necessity, and I think it is a great deal better. You will generally find that a special detective force becomes a corrupt force, and has been the object of a special commission, as in Victoria not long ago.

23. Would you approve of the police of the Colony being drilled and armed for defence purposes? Yes, we do so with ours; we drill our men and they are armed. We have 30 stands of Martini-Henry rifles, and would give them an annual course of target practice if we had butts. We have Morris tubes, and practise in the yard.

24. Would not the police as a defence force be more effective if we had one for the whole Colony? I think the police should all be drilled, and have three or four months' drill, but no doubt the country officers generally would not be able to take charge of them for the purposes of drill. I think the candidates for the police force throughout the Colony should be drilled either at Hobart or Launceston, for five or six months before entering upon their duties. It would tend to more uniformity in the force, and be of general advantage in many ways, especially if the men were ever called together. There are other matters also that might be carried out to the general advantage of the force without taking away the control of the police from the municipalities. I do not speak in favour of the municipalities personally, for I think the police would desire to be free from municipal control, which keeps them more vigilantly up to their work now, and in the country I believe they would desire to be united to the territorial force, which would place them in a better position than now; but I speak in the interests of the general community, and sink my feelings as a policeman for the benefit of the public.

25. Is not the tendency now in all countries to centralise police government? In all despotic and military countries it is, but not in free countries. In America they elect their constables, and it is only in large towns that they have organised police. In Great Britain and Ireland you have only two forces directly under the Ministry—the Irish Constabulary and Metropolitan Police. The Irish police are as inefficient as any in the world; they are more a military than a police force; they are separated entirely from the people, and have no knowledge or communication with them, are not in a position to detect crime; they have not the knowledge to enable them to do so.

26. Are you aware that in Sydney local management of the police was abandoned after two years' trial? I do not know it ever existed.

27. Do not the Executive in all the Australian Colonies retain authority over the police? They do, and it is only natural they should retain authority over the police. There is no local police rate; if there was there would be local management in accordance with the English practice. We have a local police rate, which is not the case in the other colonies.

28. Is not Tasmania singular in its system of divided authority? I think the Tasmanian system was a copy of that of South Australia; it is that of Great Britain.

29. Under an united system would not greater facilities be offered for promotions and removal of constables from one district to another? Yes; decidedly for the removal of constables—that is a great difficulty in small municipalities. A constable may through some slight misconduct make his removal necessary, and if you cannot remove him from the locality you must probably remove him from the force. The same occurs in England where

the police are county or borough police. The Act there makes provision for a man being promoted or removed from one to the other, although they are separate bodies. An assimilation of that Act here would be an advantage. As to promotion, I do not know. I have not much confidence as to promotion. When particular officers of police are wanted they are looked for generally outside the force. I do not think the police would have much confidence in promotion, which is generally a matter of political expediency.

30. Would not the police working under one head feel a greater amount of confidence and support in the execution of their duty? I cannot say they would. The execution of their duty is prescribed by law; they have the protection of the law, not of an individual. What protection can his officers give him? If he acts strictly to the law he requires none, and if a constable exceeds or does not carry out his duties he should not be protected.

31. Would not centralisation of the police tend to increase the security of life and property? Life and property were never so secure as since the police have been under municipal control; and since that was established life and property are becoming more secure every day.

32. Would it not tend to increase subordination and concerted action? I cannot say it would. I can say that all the difficulties I have ever experienced have come from centralised police, also all the obstructiveness I have felt, and I think a sense of duty should have prevented them doing so. If you make everything depend on the man at the head of the force, the whole effect of the police may be paralysed. If you imbue the force with military ideas and discipline, the whole structure may be paralysed by one man, as it has been, whether he be a Minister of the Crown or simply an officer appointed by the Ministry. I think we have had experience very lately of the very great disadvantages of political influences over the police in England. The Home Secretary, in the late Gladstone Ministry, reprimanded the police and magistrates for doing their duty in preventing socialists from gathering crowds in the streets, which it clearly was their duty to do, and the result was that the action of the police was paralysed, and a few weeks afterwards London was nearly sacked, and Colonel Henderson was sacrificed to what really was Ministerial influences. The same occurred to the Irish Police under the previous Gladstone Government, when the Home Secretary prevented the police from assisting the sheriffs in the execution of their duty, and outrage was the result all over the country.

33. May not the general welfare be defeated under a system which places the police at the caprice of independent local powers? No, impossible; there may be local injury or inconvenience, but that will soon be remedied by the public, who have the power to do so. What you describe might arise from the police being centralised and under political influences, or under a man who might be politically influenced.

34. What do you consider are the defects of the Tasmanian police system? I really cannot point out any serious defects in the Tasmanian police force. I am afraid in a few rural municipalities the force is deteriorating; they do not hold so high a position, with regard to superintendents, as when first organised, and I must say the territorial force have greatly improved. They were an awfully ragtag set when I came here, as ragged looking as Falstaff's recruits. They have been improved by the good example set them by the municipal police.

35. If your opinion is correct, to follow it out to a logical conclusion, would not the result of your superior force improve the territorial police if amalgamated? We might deteriorate to their standard. I think the chief effects would be, if the police were centralised that there would be more danger of political influences. The police should be under a Minister as in England. They are now under one whom Parliament cannot make responsible, and he acts as a buffer between the Minister and the people.

36. You think the central authority should be vested in a Minister of the Crown? Yes; and he should have somewhat more authority than given under the Act; power, for instance, should ever occasion arise, to concentrate the force, to order the municipal councils that their quota of men should be so and so, and must assemble at a given place at a time mentioned; but this power should be in the hands of an officer responsible directly to Parliament.

37. Do you think it would increase the efficiency of the police in our country districts if they were mounted? I could not give an opinion on the country districts; they are outside my experience.

38. *By Dr. Huston.*—How are your police appointed? They are appointed upon my recommendation by the Mayor, and the Council approves.

39. Always upon your recommendation? Yes, always.

40. Can you give any information as to the comparison of economy of management between the territorial and municipal police? I produce a return showing amounts raised during years 1882–3–4 by police rates in municipal and territorial districts, and amounts contributed from general revenue. The police rates raised were, municipalities, £66,214 1s. 4d., or an average of £337 16s. 6d. per constable; territorial districts, £1600 13s., or an average of £141 11s. 10d. per constable. The balance, of course, was paid from the general revenue, so that the municipalities in three years received £17,143 8s. 7d., or £87 9s. 3d. per constable, whilst the territorial police received £35,653 18s. 1d., or £315 10s. 5d. per constable; the total cost of the police being, municipal £83,357 9s. 11d., or £425 5s. 10d. per constable, and territorial, £51,354 11s. 1d., or £457 2s. 4d. per constable. The fact is, that although the pay of the municipal police of Hobart and Launceston is larger than either the country municipalities or territorial districts, lodging is not provided, neither is fuel or light, and the consequence is that the average cost of the territorial police is larger. In fact, the position of married men in the Launceston force is not considered by the police good, because rent is so high. It takes two days' pay to pay for lodgings, which is double the rate it should be, and some of our men have sought to get into the country police, where the duty is lighter and living cheaper. The cost of stations, fuel, light, and travelling allowances really swell the cost of the territorial to exceed that of the municipal.

41. Does your return include magistracy? No; that is kept separate.

MR. B. SHAW, *called and examined.*

42. *By Mr. Braddon.*—What position do you occupy? Inspector of Police.

43. How long have you held that office? Since January last.

44. What are your duties? To manage the territorial police of the colony.

45. How are the duties defined? They are defined by Act of Parliament. The Police Act defines the duties of the police generally, and my duty is to see that these duties are properly performed.

46. Do you consider your authority over the municipal and territorial police generally sufficient? Certainly not.

47. In case of emergency can you direct the police of a municipality? No.

48. In case of riot can you direct them without the consent of the municipal authorities? I consider I cannot. I have nominally power, but for all practical purposes I look upon it as useless. No emergency has occurred during the short time I have been at the head of the police.

49. So far as experience and judgment go, what authority have you? I have no practical authority whatever over the municipal police.

50. Would it be better if the police of the colony were under one system? I certainly think it would.

51. Do you think the amalgamation of council clerk and superintendent of police desirable? I do not. That is a matter I have had considerable experience in, first as clerk of the court and then as police magistrate, which enables me to form an opinion on that subject outside my short experience as Inspector of Police.

52. Have you found any difficulty in obtaining suitable persons for ordinary police services? None whatever.

53. Have you any reason to believe that members of the municipal police dare not do their duty independently, because they might have to proceed against a man to-day who would have authority over him to-morrow? I have not actually come across any case of the kind, but at the same time it is very reasonable to suppose that such things may happen, because the constitution of the rural municipalities renders it possible, and even probable, that a man against whom the police may have to act may become a councillor and their master.

54. If the police were centralised would it affect municipal action in any matters not connected with the police? I do not think it would. It certainly would not.

55. Would the provisions of the Licensing Act be better carried out if the police were not subject to local influences? I could scarcely answer that. I have had no particular experience that would enable me to give an opinion on the matter, but I should think it would be so.

56. Do you think a proper detective police system necessary? Yes, decidedly.

57. To have a proper detective police system should not the police be under one head? Most certainly.

58. Can it be constituted under a system where the head of the Police Department would have to employ agents over whom he had no control? It certainly could not.

59. Or in whom he had no confidence? Certainly not.

60. Is not the tendency in all countries to centralise police government? I do not know any country where it does not exist except Tasmania. Of course I am aware that the whole of the police of the United Kingdom is not under one head, but they are centralised to a certain extent. The number of police is very large, and of course this assists in the exercise of their functions; but I cannot say exactly how it is managed.

61. Do you know that in Sydney local management of the police was abandoned after two years' trial? I believe so; I have always understood so.

62. Do not the Executive in all the Australian colonies retain authority over the police? Yes.

63. Is not Tasmania singular in its system of divided authority? Yes; I believe this is the only colony where such a system exists.

64. Under an united system would not greater facilities be offered for promotion and removal of constables from one district to another? Yes, decidedly.

65. Would not the police have far more confidence and reliance of support in the execution of their duty if they were under one head? I believe they would.

66. Would not centralisation of the police tend to increase the security of life and property? I think it would, especially property consisting of cattle, sheep, and horses.

67. Has it come under your notice, during the time you have held your present appointment, that want of united action between territorial and municipal police has resulted in offenders escaping, and crime being undetected? No, I cannot say it has come under my notice especially during the time I have been in the department. I know there is not that good feeling existing between the two bodies that there should be, but I may say no particular case has come under my notice during the short time I have been Inspector of Police.

68. Has any instance come under your notice of the territorial and municipal police failing to act in concert and to assist each other? No.

69. Would not centralisation tend to increase subordination and concerted action? I think so, most decidedly.

70. Does the present system of divided authority tend to prevent subordination and concerted action? Most decidedly it does.

71. May not the general welfare be defeated under a system which places the police at the caprice of independent local powers? I do not hesitate to say it would be defeated, prejudiced, and hindered.

72. Have you power to require that the police in municipalities should be kept up to a sufficient number? I have the theoretical power, but I do not think it could be put into practice. The inspector has the power of applying to the Supreme Court for a *mandamus*, but practically I do not think the power workable.

73. If the police were centralised, how many superintendents would you require? I am not prepared to state the exact number which would be necessary, but I may say several of the superintendents in rural municipalities could be dispensed with, with one or two at least in the territorial police. In Hobart there is the superintendent of the city police; within a quarter of a mile of his station is the head station of the territorial police, with a superintendent and three sub-inspectors having charge of New Town and Sandy Bay; on the opposite side of the river, within two miles, is the station of the superintendent of the Clarence municipal police; within five miles, at Glenorchy, adjoining New Town, is the station of the superintendent of the Glenorchy municipal police. If centralisation were effected, I have no hesitation in saying the work could be much more efficiently and thoroughly done by having one superintendent, with sub-inspectors at each of the present municipal head-quarters of Clarence and Glenorchy, and the abolition of the present head territorial station with its superintendent and three sub-inspectors, retaining, perhaps, an additional sub-inspector in the city to attend to the suburban work. In Launceston the office of the superintendent of the municipal police and the office of the superintendent of the territorial police of the suburbs and surrounding district (called Selby) are adjoining rooms in the same building. One superintendent could more effectually do the work if the police were centralised and the present territorial station abolished. Again, with respect to Launceston, the peculiar situation of the town, being the centre and chief business resort of all the districts of the north, renders it essentially necessary that the local heads of the police there should exercise a general control and supervision, immediately under the inspector, over the whole of the police in the Northern districts. The advantages would be very great indeed; but under the present divided system anything of the kind is wholly impracticable. In the municipalities of Sorrell, Spring Bay, and Glamorgan, and the territorial district of Carnarvon, in the municipalities of Ross and Campbell Town, in Westbury and Deloraine, and in Brighton, Green Ponds, and Bothwell I have no doubt a reduction of existing officers could be effected with no detriment to the service, but rather to its advantage. With reference to the question of the local control of wardens, councillors, or magistrates, I would desire to express my opinion, based upon an experience of 33 years in close connection with the administration of justice in the minor courts of the colony, that the police ought to be entirely free from any control of the kind, and the smaller the community the more urgent it

is that such independence should exist. The warden and justices should be elevated above the position of the police, and sit and act as the impartial, unbiassed judges, to determine all matters in which the police deem it necessary to take action against individuals. They should hear, on the bench, both sides of every question, and in a perfectly impartial manner decide it. Under existing arrangements, however, in the rural municipalities this principle is lost sight of, and it is the duty of the warden as head of the police of the municipality, first to direct a prosecution, or to advise the superintendent, and then to preside in the court at the adjudication of the case. It is obvious that such a system is opposed to one of the first principles of natural justice, and, although the colony has been, I believe, remarkably free from abuses arising out of it, it is one which ought to be abolished. It has been said that a spirit of antagonism exists between the municipal and territorial police, which must necessarily injuriously affect the usefulness of both. There can be no question that such a feeling largely existed at one time, although for some two or three years past it has not so often exhibited itself. There is, however, the ever present danger that it may be revived at any moment while the present state of divided authority and management exists.

74. Could you effect any saving by the employment of fewer superior officers? I think so.

75. Do you think greater efficiency could be attained by centralisation of our police? I certainly think so.

76. In what way? The municipal system prevents concerted action, and there are many offenders who require to be followed and traced beyond the immediate district in which the offence was committed. In cases of that kind I believe the police, if centralised, would be more efficient in following up offenders, especially in sheep, cattle, and horsestealing, where they escape by removing from one district to another. I believe the municipal police maintain general order in their municipalities in what pertains to their laws and the general welfare of the community just as well as it could be done; but in reference to offenders who extend their operations all over the colony, or after committing offences remove to another part of the island, and require to be followed by detective police, the present system of police prevents such being carried out, and gives facilities to offenders for escaping.

77. Do you think a system could be devised for giving the Government entire control over the police? Of course it could, by following up the same system that exists in the other colonies—by placing the whole municipal police on the same footing as the territorial police.

78. Could a system be devised which would give the Government entire control of the police without depriving the municipal authorities of all power over the force? I scarcely think so. If the municipality maintains the control there would be a division of authority. If the police were under the general Government, and the municipal bodies had any control, there would be a division of authority, and the police would have two masters.

79. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Do you consider some system might be devised by which in case of emergency the Government could have general control of the police of the whole colony without interfering with the local control or taking it entirely over? The Government should have power to exercise entire control over the municipal power for the time being. A dual control would not work at all, especially in times of emergency. Whoever has control must have supreme control.

80. Do you think the police are generally more effective in the territorial than in municipal districts? I should be sorry to say that, and have no reason to say so as regards the maintenance of order and general conduct of local matters. In these matters I believe the municipal police are as good as any police can be, especially in Hobart and Launceston. I may say I have not had an opportunity of visiting the rural municipalities, and would like to explain the reason. Through an unfortunate chain of circumstances there is not one man left in the office who was there last year. Messrs. Swan, Propsting, and Norman are dead, and Mr. Rule has been changed to another position, so that all are new men, and it was thought better that I should not leave the office for long at present.

81. What are your duties with respect to municipalities? To inspect the quarters, buildings, and police offices, also the books and the way the records are kept, and report to the Government anything I see that leads me to suppose they are not correctly or efficiently kept.

82. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Have you any reason to believe that the superintendents and constables are deterred from doing their duty through fear of offending municipal authorities? I cannot say anything of the kind has come under my notice; but it seems to me to be one of the natural outcomes of human nature with such a system. Some municipalities are so very small that such a thing might arise, although I do not think it exists.

83. What do you consider the defects of the Tasmanian Police Force? There are no means of training men when they first enter the police and to properly teach them their duty, because we have not a sufficient body of police in any one centre to enable us to place under the guidance of trained officers men when they first join the force. We appoint a man and have to send him off to a station where he has to learn his duties as best he can. If the police were centralised, the recruit would have an opportunity of learning his duties before going to an outstation where he is thrown on his own resources. The different municipalities are not only independent of the Government, but are independent of themselves, and it is very difficult to have concerted action if required; and I also do not think there is a proper system of following up offenders from one district to another. I have not had an actual case of this kind in my experience, but that seems to me to be a difficulty.

84. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Is there any other defect? There is one requirement which I think indispensable, and that is the power to remove the men. A man might be an excellent constable, but circumstances might arise that would necessitate his removal to another station. The very fact that there was power to remove an officer would make him more careful in doing his duty; but in the municipalities this cannot occur. Each municipality is independent, and has no connection with any other.

85. Do these defects arise from a too extensive subdivision, want of unity, and the lack of central control? Yes.

86. Do you think the central authority should be in the Government? Yes, certainly.

87. If the police were placed under the central authority, and rules for their guidance, general government, and discipline were made by the Governor in Council, do you think the people would have any reason to dread a return of the arbitrary and tyrannical system which existed under the old Imperial system of police in this colony? Certainly not, no reason whatever. The circumstances of the colony are so totally different since those days that I do not think the force that existed then could ever exist again. At that time the police were under police magistrates, who were at the head of the police in the different districts. It was a very necessary system in those days, because it was part of the convict system of organisation, and the colony was more like a large gaol than anything else; but those days have passed away for ever, and there is nothing of the kind in existence now. One principle indispensable for the existence of the force then would not be thought of now, and that is that the magistrates were at the head of the police, who, with the superintendent, were under the immediate control of the magistrates. It was necessary under the convict régime, but it would be very injurious now, for the magistrate would be the instigator of the prosecution which he would afterwards decide, whereas he should be an impartial judge between the police on one side and the offender on the other. I do not think any system of centralisation that could be devised would contain any of the old objectionable features of the convict system.

88. Do you think it would increase the efficiency of the police in our country districts if they were mounted? They are nearly all mounted so far as the territorial police are concerned. I certainly think a mounted force in this Colony is necessary. The territorial police receive forage allowance and keep their own horses.

89. Would a mounted police force induce a superior class of men to enter the service? I do not know if it would.

90. Would not much time be saved, and in cases of emergency, crime be more easily detected? Yes, certainly, when compared against police not mounted; but our territorial police are nearly all mounted, although not a mounted police force.

91. If the police were centralised could the force be anyway connected with the defence force of this Colony? Yes, I think so, by compelling them all to become members of the rifle clubs; that would be connecting them indirectly with the defence force.

92. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Could they not be drilled separately? That could be done in Hobart and Launceston, but not in the country; you could not get a sufficient number together.

93. Would it not be a great advantage to have the police connected with and attached to the defence force? I do not think it would. In the event of invasion you must have the police quite free from the defence force, to look after your own banks, &c., for if the police were taken away everything would be stolen worth plundering.

94. *By Dr. Huston.*—Are you aware that the police are now under the magistrates in the municipalities? Yes, in the municipalities they are.

95. In case of centralising the police, what position would the wardens be in regard to the superintendent of police? The same position as the police or stipendiary magistrates are now—an entirely independent position, entirely independent of each other. In the territorial districts the magistrates have no power to interfere with or exercise control over the police. Magistrates should be perfectly impartial judges between the police, maintaining law and order on one side, and offenders on the other; otherwise the public will naturally think of a magistrate, as the head of the police in the district, that he is siding with the police, and giving effect when sitting on the bench to his own orders.

96. Would it not be anomalous that the wardens should not have power to give an order to the superintendent of police? That would depend on what the order was.

97. If the superintendent of police is altogether independent of the warden, would it not be an anomalous state of things and preventing them working together? It would be no more anomalous than the system in the territorial districts, where the stipendiary magistrates cannot give an order to the police except from the bench.

98. If the police were centralised, what position would the superintendent occupy in reference to the warden? He would be quite independent of the warden, just as he is of the stipendiary magistrate in a territorial district.

99. Do you think in case of centralising the police the arrangements for keeping police at outstations would be much better than at present? I am quite sure they would. In many instances we think it desirable that a constable should be removed from one district to another through no fault of his own, but in consequence of certain circumstances. A man may marry, and then it may be deemed desirable to remove him, however good he may be. In a municipality he would be lost altogether.

100. If you have any further suggestions will you submit them in writing? I will.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1886.

MR. F. PEDDER, *called and examined.*

101. *By Mr. Braddon.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of the Hobart Municipal Police.

102. How long have you held that office? Seven years; and I was Superintendent of the Clarence Police for ten years prior to that.

103. What are your duties? To supervise the police, recommend appointments in case of vacancies to the Mayor and police committee, to see that the men attend to their duties at proper hours at night and day, and that the officers are at their proper places; receive reports of offences every morning at 9 o'clock, and peruse them; hear the reports of the detectives, and give them instructions; conduct cases at the police court when I have laid information against offenders; attend the mayor and police committee every Friday, and report to them of the condition and efficiency of the police.

104. How are your duties defined? There is no special definition.

105. Do you have any difficulty in getting suitable persons for ordinary police service? No, I have not found any difficulty in getting good men. They are generally selected from the applicants who are of the age at which men are taken, and of high character.

106. Have you a standard? Yes, 5 ft. 8 in. high, and 28 years of age.

107. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Have you a medical examination? Yes; the applicant's testimonials are examined by the Mayor and police committee, and he is then sent with a letter to the medical examiner, and if his bodily health is certified to he is appointed by the mayor, who submits the appointment to the next meeting of the municipal council for their commendation.

108. Have you a superannuation fund? We have; 5 per cent. is deducted from the pay of each officer, and 5 per cent. of certain fees and fines are appropriated towards the reward branch for rewarding meritorious conduct.

109. *By Dr. Huston.*—Do the fines and fees belong to the Government? No, they arise out of the fines paid to the municipality.

110. The deduction from the pay is supplemented by 5 per cent. of the fees that go to the municipality? Yes, that is appropriated to the reward branch, and also supplemented by any forfeitures where men are dismissed from the service. They forfeit their superannuation allowance, or if they retire before two years' service they also forfeit it.

111. Do you find in the municipal police there is a sufficiently wide field of promotion for constables who perform their duties meritoriously? Yes; promotions are made from the ranks of the men. They are first appointed as second-class constables; after a few years, if they serve well and show meritorious conduct, they are promoted to first-class constables with a rise of 6d. per day. From the first-class constables the sergeants are selected, and so promotion goes on up to that of sub-inspector,—street sergeants, staff sergeants, and sub-inspector. The promotions that have been made in that way have met with the approbation of the men without being questioned since I have been here. No dissatisfaction has been expressed, nor, I think, felt.

112. In your experience has any difficulty arisen from the fact that the police under your control and the territorial police are two distinct bodies? Yes. When I first came here I found some difficulty that way, and the territorial police were doing duty in town which, I thought, might be efficiently performed by the city police, and I took upon myself to question the expediency of the territorial police coming into the city to do duty that might be performed by the city police; and that led to some misunderstanding for some time. If the city police went to do anything beyond the town boundaries I always directed my men and officers to consult with the head of the department where they went before they took any action to report themselves; but that courtesy was not extended to me. Since Mr. Shaw has been appointed he appears to regulate matters more satisfactorily generally.

113. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Is there any want of harmony between the forces now? No.

114. Have you found that the municipal and territorial police have not co-operated in the discharge of their duties? At one time they did not; they do now, cordially.

115. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Do you attribute that misunderstanding to the system, or to the prejudice of the old officers? I cannot say it was the system or even the subordinate officers. It was the impression of the late Inspector that he could usurp the functions of the mayor and police of the city, and do what he thought proper in the city without consulting them.

116. Would greater efficiency be attained if the police were centralised or placed under the Government? From the efficient manner in which the Mayor and Corporation of Hobart manage their police I think they are quite competent to continue their management, and I do not think they would be better managed if placed under the Government.

117. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Would there be a greater measure of efficiency if the whole police of the colony were centralised? I cannot say that there would be. I have had some experience in municipalities when I was at Clarence for 10 years, and I had occasion to go to Richmond, Sorell, and New Norfolk, and there I received every assistance; and if ever police were sent into these districts they were most cordially received. The utmost cordial co-operation existed between us. I never knew any offender to escape in consequence of the authority in those places being divided.

118. Could a system be devised which would give the Government entire control of the police without depriving the municipal authorities of all power over the force? I do not think so. The magistrates presiding at the hearing of cases regularly in a great manner tends to preserve the efficiency of the police. If you have an efficient magistrate, who hears and determines the cases in a satisfactory way, the police know that when they bring an offender there justice will be done. These magistrates I find in some of the municipalities giving assistance to the police in that way.

119. Do you not think that the central authority should be in the Government? I do not see what could be gained by it. I do not see any advantage to be gained from it by the way in which the police are now maintained. It might be better for the men themselves; they might have more promotion, and perhaps a little less supervision.

120. *By Mr. Barrett.*—What about discipline? In municipalities I have seen discipline as good as in the territorial.

121. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Would not centralisation of the police tend to increase the security of life and property? I would have to consider whether in any municipalities any offences have been committed whereby offenders have escaped detection and being brought to justice. In my experience, I have not known any crime committed in municipalities where the offenders have escaped, except in minor charges.

122. Would not centralisation tend to increase subordination and concerted action? It might secure concerted action, but I cannot say it would increase subordination.

123. Would not greater facilities be offered for promotion and removing constables if they were centralised? I do not see that promotion would be benefited in any way. My experience has been that long service has not always been recognised by the Government in making promotions. In municipalities it appears to be more the general rule.

124. Would not the police have far more reliance under one head upon proper support in the execution of their duty? That would entirely depend upon the head of the police, and who was appointed to that position. I have always found, so far as Hobart is concerned, that whenever the police have performed their duty, the Mayor and Aldermen have supported them, and immediately rewarded them for anything of a meritorious character.

125. Do you think the police should be employed as a branch of the defence force? In Hobart at the present time we have 40 members of the police force who are drilled every week, excepting those who are on actual duty, and they would prove of very great advantage to the colony in the event of an enemy coming here. They are all active, willing men, and understand the use of firearms.

126. Would not their efficiency, as a branch of the defence force, be increased if the whole body were brought under one system for the whole colony? Each district throughout the colony would want to have its several policemen for the protection of property, as ordinarily, and brought in for the purpose of defending Hobart, for instance, which would necessitate considerable time.

127. If they were all members of one force, of course there would be no difficulty in having them drilled together at times when their services could be spared? There would be great difficulty in having them drilled together, because the various parts of the colony would then be left unprotected, so far as police were concerned. If some encouragement were given to the present Hobart police force, in the way of providing them with ammunition and uniform, it would serve to help them in becoming more efficient as a defence force. As it is, the night duty men, after being on eight hours, come off at 5 o'clock; then if they have any cases they have to be at the police court at 10, and then assemble at the barracks at 2 p.m. to be drilled, which is a great tax on their time: still they do it cheerfully, without being recognised in any way.

128. *By Dr. Huston.*—In case of invasion, could the police be spared to connect themselves with the defence force? They have signified their intention to do so.

129. Could they be spared at such a time? At the time of an invasion I question whether the people would be looking round to see what they could plunder—they would rather be thinking of getting away themselves. If a number of people made up their minds to burglary, they could not get the stolen property away, unless it were current coin.

130. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Do you think a proper detective force necessary? The detective police force we have in Hobart is an efficient one, and in very few cases do offenders escape being brought to justice, as will be seen by the records.

131. Should not the detective force, to work efficiently, be under one head for the whole colony? The offences committed within the colony are of a minor character now; and seeing that wherever offences are committed now the crime is generally traced to the perpetrators, I do not think that I could suggest a better system.

132. If you are to have a proper detective force, should not it be one for the whole colony, and under one head? If a detective force were established at head quarters, in the event of an offence occurring at, say, Campbell Town, special detectives would be sent to investigate the matter. It would take some time before they got acquainted with the locality and people there. There are many things that they would have to make themselves acquainted with that the local police know already. The colony does not present the necessity for a properly constituted detective force. If they were unable to detect crime, and the local police could not ferret out offenders, a number of shrewd men specially trained might find a clue to it. Unquestionably if the requirements of the colony required a special detective force, it would be better that they should be specially trained men and under one head. The difficulty is in selecting and training the proper men.

133. If the police were centralised, would it affect municipal action in any matters not connected with the police? I do not know what the municipalities would have to do if they had not the police to manage. I think if the police were taken away from the management of the municipal councils, the wardens and councillors would not care to preside at the courts; they would not take any interest in the proceedings of the courts.

134. Would not the Licensing Act be better enforced if the police were not subject to local influences? From 17 years' experience as a police officer, I have never had any difficulty in carrying out the spirit of the Licensing Act—of course I do not mean the exact letter of the Act. The Act itself gives certain discretionary power. It is a violation of the law to have anyone (not a lodger or traveller) in a public-house after 10 p.m.; but the Licensing Act contemplates that any frivolous complaints should be dismissed by the magistrates.

135. Is the provision that public-houses should close at 10 o'clock carried out? Some houses are presumably closed at 10 o'clock, but hours after that there are people inside who are not lodgers or travellers.

136. Do they close at 2 o'clock? No.

137. Can you get into them after 3 o'clock? Yes, into several houses. I do not know that the public peace is disturbed by their keeping open after 10. If the publicans allow disorderly persons to be in their houses after 10 I proceed against them, but if they are orderly I think I would be exceeding my duty to proceed against them for keeping open.

138. Has difficulty occurred in tracking criminals or stolen stock owing to the divided authority of the two bodies of police? No, I cannot say it has. I have never known any person commit an offence, or suspected of having committed an offence, in which case the greatest facility has not been given me to trace him.

139. Are you aware that in Sydney local management of the police was abandoned after two years' trial? I am not.

140. Do not the Executive in all the Australian Colonies retain authority over the police? I believe they do.

141. Have you any reason to believe that members of the municipal police are deterred from doing their duty independently because they might have to proceed against a man to-day who would have authority over him to-morrow? I feel sure such is not the case—I have never experienced it. I have always been encouraged to do my duty, and so has the force under me. The only fault found is when the police neglect to do their duty.

142. What are the defects of the present system of police in Tasmania? I have not had experience of police in other colonies; but there are a large number of police officers and men in Tasmania competent to discharge their duties without any question as to their efficiency.

143. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Do you know any defects in promotion in the territorial police force? I know that promotions have been made in the territorial force that have been taken exception to by those who have been in the force for years.

144. Have strangers been promoted over the heads of men in the force? Yes, men who have been in the force 20 years have had men placed over their heads. Good men have been passed over.

145. Can you give any information as to the economical management of the two systems? The management of the police in municipalities costs considerably less per head than the territorial police. The wharves of Hobart were managed by the territorial police up to last year, there being four men to look after the wharves and shipping. Last year the Mayor undertook to look after them with the City police, and that has been done, with a saving of £500 a year; and I have been spoken to by shipowners and the shipping masters, expressing their satisfaction at the manner in which the work has been done. The cost of maintaining the police at Queenborough and New Town is about as much as the cost of the police at Sorell, Clarence, Ross, and Brighton.

146. *By Mr. Braddon.*—If you have any further remarks, will you furnish them in writing? I will.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1886.

MR. O. E. HEDBERG, *called and examined.*

147. *By Mr. Braddon.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of the Territorial Police of New Town and Queenborough.

148. How long have you held that office? Twelve months as Acting Superintendent and Superintendent. I was formerly Sub-inspector.

149. How long have you been in the force? Two years.

150. What are your duties? I have charge of the district of New Town and Queenborough, and supervise the general duties of sub-officers and constables.

151. Have you ever experienced any difficulty arising out of the fact that there are two separate bodies of police in the colony? Yes, I have, in many small instances, but of late it has been better. The Hobart municipal police and territorial police of New Town and Queenborough did not work amicably, but since Mr. Shaw has had charge the two bodies have worked very satisfactorily.

152. What were the difficulties? The territorial police going into Hobart and making enquiries were the principal cause of disagreement, and also when charges were brought before the police court as to which charge-sheet they should go on. The men seemed to be more antagonistic than the officers. I have always got on well with Mr. Pedder.

153. With regard to the detection of crime, tracing stolen property, or pursuing criminals, have you found any difficulty? No, I have not.

154. Do you think any advantage would be gained by the amalgamation of the two bodies? I do.

155. What advantage? I think the police would be more efficient; they would be disciplined, and be much better organised in every respect, and less expensive. I consider the force at present over-officered.

156. Would it be an advantage, in your opinion, to have the police of the colony one body, in view of drilling them for defence purposes? I consider all the men should be drilled. The city police are, I think, the only ones at present who know anything about drill, except, perhaps, the Launceston police. My own men, for instance, when I have to march them out, are quite a laughing-stock, owing to their not having been drilled.

157. Would they be improved if all were one body? Of course. Centralisation would give an officer a chance to get the men together; but now they are scattered about in so many parts that they cannot be got together without affecting the place where they are stationed by leaving it without protection.

158. Would it be an improvement with regard to constituting a proper detective force? Yes, I think so. There would be a larger body of men to choose from.

159. Do you think a detective force necessary? I think if there were two or three experienced men of better education than the constables have at present they would be of great use to the police force. Now there are only two detective forces in Tasmania, and you cannot call them effective. There is one in Hobart, and I think there is one in Launceston. There are no detectives to take country cases.

160. There is no detective force, properly speaking? No.

161. Would amalgamation tend to improve the position of the police in the matter of promotion? No, I do not think it would, because if the police were centralised there would not be such a number of officers; there would be more men. Every municipality at present has its officers and men, and of course, being centralised, one superintendent would take a number of municipalities under his charge.

162. What is your reason for so thinking? I judge from my experience in Victoria.

163. What experience did you have in Victoria? I was 10 years in the mounted police in Victoria.

164. Would amalgamation have the effect of giving the police as a body more reliable support in the performance of their duties than they have at present? I think so.

165. Would it tend to increase the safety of life and property generally? Most decidedly I think so.

166. Will you briefly say why? It would not at all as regards Hobart and Launceston,—I except them; but I think in some of the country municipalities, where there is a superintendent who acts also as council clerk, the latter duties keep him pretty well employed at office work, and he cannot very well supervise his district. The constables, as a rule, do duty on the township, but the surrounding districts are untended. They are not patrolled and I think they should be patrolled continuously.

167. By mounted police? Yes, unmounted police could not do it at all.

168. Would centralisation tend to increase concerted action and subordination? Yes, decidedly.

169. Does the present system prevent subordination? Yes, I think so.

170. Do you think under the present system constables are deterred from performing their duties by fear of offending the municipal authorities? I think so. I cannot state a case in point; but I can state that a man named Jones, who had served a sentence for sheep-stealing, was appointed a constable at Oatlands.

171. *By Dr. Huston.*—Some time ago, was it not? Yes. This man I had occasion to question about a pauper he was bringing down by train, and who died on the way. I asked the constable if the pauper had any property, and he said no. I afterwards found he had a £1 note when starting. This was subsequently proved, and Jones gave the £1 up. He was allowed to resign afterwards. I heard he had a brother a councillor in the Municipal Council.

172. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Is that merely rumour? About his brother being in the council, yes; but I know he had undergone a sentence, and I know he took charge of the £1 and denied it. I believe his brother was in the council.

173. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Have you any difficulty in obtaining good men for the force? No, there is very little difficulty. There are plenty of applicants, but I do not think the class of men who join will ever be fit for promotion. The pay is too small to ever induce men of education to join the force.

174. What is your regulation standard? We have no regulation as to age or height.

175. Are they put under medical examination before being enrolled? Yes, the territorial police are all medically examined, but not by the Government, as is the rule in other forces. When an applicant came before Mr. Swan he had to go to a doctor and get a certificate, but in other forces the Government have a doctor to examine them.

176. The police are under the Government in Victoria? Yes, the police are centralised there.

177. From your personal observation there do you think the system worked better than the divided system in existence here? There is not the slightest comparison whatever. I consider the police in Tasmania, except Hobart and Launceston, are a disorganised body; there may be one or two exceptions—that is the general condition.

178. *By Dr. Huston.*—Do you think that the outstations would be better managed under one head than under two or three—I allude to Bridgewater? Yes, there are three constables there under three different heads within half a mile, and each totally independent of the other.

179. You believe it would be much better managed under one head? Yes, much better.

180. Do you know any case in which justice has been frustrated by jealousy between the police in any way? I cannot state a case, but I believe justice is often frustrated by the various bodies not being centralised. It is my opinion that it militates against the action of the police; if one body is jealous of another the duty is not done cordially. There is disorganisation, and where there is disorganisation there is no system. For instance, if the Hobart and territorial police are at loggerheads over their duties, should any crime happen in Hobart and the territorial police had to deal with it, it would affect their duty, and it could not be properly carried out. Spleen is carried into their duties.

181. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Can you add anything to this subject? Last year I was in England, and on making enquiries I found that the divided authority in London causes the same jealousy to crop up.

182. If you have any further suggestions will you submit them in writing? I will.

MR. JAMES STEVENSON, *called and examined.*

183. *By Mr. Braddon.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of Police at New Norfolk.

184. How long have you held that office? I have been Superintendent 16 years, and have been 33 years in the police.

185. Did you afterwards join the municipal police? Yes. In 1863 the New Norfolk district, where I was then serving, was made a rural municipality, and I was taken over with the force then serving, where I have been ever since.

186. You have had experience of the working of both systems? Yes; there have been three systems since I joined. At first it was under the Police Magistrates, Mr. Burgess being chief of the Tasmanian police; then they were centralised under Mr. Forster as Inspector, and then came Municipal control.

187. Speaking generally, have you found that the system of divided authority has worked as well, or better, or worse than the centralised system? I do not think the divided authority works well. It would work much better if it were under one head, but of course it would depend on the head who was over it.

188. Will you tell the Committee why you think the centralised police would work better? One reason, I think would be that there would be a wider field for the members of the force, so that they would be encouraged to follow up their duties in a more independent manner with a view to promotion. At present in rural municipalities a man has no chance of promotion, at least very little chance, until the officer over him is removed or dies, whereas if they were under one head, within a central head at Hobart or Launceston, where constables would be trained to perform their duties before being turned out, it would be a great improvement. They could be trained properly at head-quarters and drafted off when an opening occurred; but now a man is working on a farm to-day, sworn in as a constable to-morrow, and turned out for duty without knowing what he has to do, and he has to pick up a knowledge of his duty as he goes on. Another thing is that the Municipalities do not all pay their constables at the same rate; some pay one rate and others another, and the territorial at another. I dare say there are three rates of pay in those districts. The effect is that the constables in the district giving the lower rate do not like to be doing the same duty as those who are getting higher pay, and it damps their energies.

189. Do you think the police would be more efficient if centralised, because the men would be more encouraged to perform their duties? Yes; and I think under a central head they would be more protected from local influences and interests. They now have to study the local heads of the district in doing their duty as policemen.

190. Have any instances come under your observation of constables hesitating to perform their duties on account of local influences? Not directly, but indirectly I have often had reason to believe that it did so. Men have shirked their duty; but I cannot state a direct instance.

191. Do you think that amalgamation of the police would tend to increase the safety of life and property? I should say that would follow; the police being one organised force would be more efficient.

192. Would it be an advantage in your opinion to obtain one amalgamated police force, which, being drilled, would form a branch of the Defence Force of the colony? I think that would be a very good plan. I believe, speaking for the New Norfolk force, although we are supplied with arms, I really do not think the men know how to use them or shoot with them. If they were called on I do not think the men would know how to use them, with one exception, he being an old military man. They have never received instruction or drill of any sort.

193. *By Mr. Barrett.*—But suppose the police were drafted off from the municipalities, how would you protect the country? They would not be all drafted off. When the Launceston rebellion took place, four constables were sent there from our district out of eight, they being allowed to go.

194. Do you think a detective force is necessary in this colony? It is necessary in the city, but in the bush I think a constable accustomed to it is better than a detective sent from headquarters, because the latter are not used to the bush.

195. At present there is no proper detective force? No, there is generally one man in the district who acts as detective, and I think he would be better than a detective sent from the city.

196. Would it be an advantage gained by centralisation that the men specially adapted for this duty would be drafted from one part of the colony? The head of the force of course would have the right to select efficient men in any part of the force. If he found a man in Hobart likely to be a good man in sheep-stealing or cattle-stealing cases, he would draft his man from Hobart and send him where he was wanted.

197. Do you think there would be an advantage in promotion from amalgamation? Yes, for the stipendiary magistrate generally advises the inspector, and the magistrate would naturally let the inspector know of the good men in his district who would be good for certain duties, and on his recommendation the Inspector would act. All the stipendiary magistrates used to make recommendations as they thought proper, and the inspector nearly always acted on those recommendations.

198. Have you known any instances where from divided authority there has been failure to pursue criminals or stolen property? No; I have heard a good deal of that, but I think there is a good deal of ignorance in what I have heard. A constable is sworn in for Tasmania, and he should follow up crime in any district. Not long ago some sheep were stolen from New Norfolk district. I sent two men a certain road to trace these sheep, and in doing so they crossed the boundary into an adjoining district. When they returned and arrived at the station they told me what they had done. Some few days after that I received a letter from the superintendent of the adjoining district informing me of my men having been in his district on duty, and he protested against it. I merely answered the letter stating that the constables were sworn in for Tasmania, and we would not ask anyone where we should go on duty. I have experienced jealousy, but it has no effect on me, for I act in defiance of it.

199. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Would it not act the same in a territorial police? No, not the same as now. The opinion has grown up that the territorial police think themselves superior to the municipal police, and the municipal do not like it.

200. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Are you acquainted with the working of the territorial police? Yes.

201. Is it usual for police to pass from one district to another without reporting themselves to the authorities in that district? It depends whether the road the men are following goes to the office. If the office is 20 miles away it would not be reasonable to expect the men to go and report themselves when they were on special duty.

202. Would not a report go afterwards? Yes, afterwards.

203. In the case you mention did you not think it your duty to make a report when the constables returned? I do not think I did.

204. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Was it in a municipal district? Yes.

205. Do you know whether at Bridgewater, where three municipalities join, any difficulty has been experienced in the execution of police duty? There is a very undecided way of doing duty there. There are three constables in

one place, and no person in charge of it. Each man does as he likes. One belongs to Glenorchy, one to New Norfolk, and one is a territorial, whilst on the other side of the bridge one is a Brighton man. They are under no head, and the four men act independently, doing as they like. I wanted the inspector's man to take charge of the station, but it could not be done, and each man takes whatever duty he thinks proper. There is no organised system.

206. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Is it not a practice in other districts for a boundary man to be paid half by each municipality? It cannot be done by law.

207. Is it not done on the Green Ponds and Ross boundary, and Ross and Oatlands boundary? I do not think it can be done by law. I spoke to my warden about it, and he took steps to arrange that our constable or the Glenorchy constable should be stationed there, and each municipality pay its share; but the warden of Glenorchy refused and said there was no reason for any change in the police at Bridgewater, and you cannot compel a change unless each district is agreeable. It could be done, and is done in a good many places, if arrangements can be agreed on, but you cannot force it.

208. Would centralisation of the police tend to increase subordination and concerted action? I really think so.

209. *By Mr. Braddon.*—If the police were centralised would it affect municipal action in any matter not connected with police? I do not see that the police would have anything to do with any other branch of municipal duties.

210. Could a system be devised which would give the Government control of the police without depriving the municipalities of all authority? Yes, such as the chief magistrate or warden would certainly have some control over the police. He is the immediate head of the police, and, I think he would have some authority to advise the inspector.

211. *By Mr. Barrett.*—You are aware that in municipalities there are a great many by-laws, such as driving in streets, etc., that obtain in Hobart and Launceston more particularly: how would centralisation of police affect these and the fifty different things that are provided in municipal by-laws? We never make use of a by-law where we have a statute law; and if a municipality chose to make a by-law it would be made in the usual way, pass Parliament and become legal law, and the inspector or whoever was at the head of the police would forward them to the chief magistrate of the district, and it would have to be acted upon. It would not be for the municipal council to say this law shall or shall not be acted upon, for the police would be compelled to carry out the law of the land. The by-laws of a municipality passed by the municipal council in the first instance would be sent on to the district constable to be acted on; the warden or chief magistrate would give them to the superintendent.

212. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—But, would these little matters be as well looked after as they are under municipal or local control? They would be under the municipal council still. They would make laws for the protection of life and property even if they had not charge of the police. The policemen would certainly carry out the law better, because they would be more independent to carry it out.

213. And more independent not to carry it out? No, because it would be reported to the central authority, and the police would be reprimanded and punished.

214. *By Mr. Braddon.*—If you should have anything further to add, will you furnish it in writing? I will.

ADDENDUM.—The municipal police as at present existing, the members remaining in one part of the colony from the day they are sworn in till they leave, have not the opportunities for gaining experience which they would have by serving in different parts of the colony and under changed circumstances. It seems reasonable that in one united national police force, with the highest offices in it open to the best men, without favour, that it would be the means of inducing a superior class of men to seek the service. It is not so now. It is sought mostly (not for any particular aptitude on the part of the applicant for the work) either as a convenience, or as a means of escaping manual labour, and not often with the intention of making a permanency of it.—J. STEVENSON.

MR. FRANK TEMPERLEY, *called and examined.*

215. *By Mr. Braddon.*—What position do you occupy? Inspector of Police at Mauritius, an officer of the Imperial Government, and at present on leave.

216. The police system in Mauritius is centralised? Generalised, rather than centralised.

217. The central control resting in an Inspector-General? Yes.

218. Have you had any experience of any other system? I have not.

219. Have you found the existing system in Mauritius work well? Not having been able to compare it with any other system, it is difficult to speak on that subject, but on general principles I am in favour of it, perhaps because I am accustomed to it.

220. Is there a large amount of crime in Mauritius? Perhaps not disproportionate to the population.

221. Is the greater part petty crime? No; it includes murder, robbery, rape, and arson; perhaps every crime in the catalogue presents itself.

222. You have no opinion as to the comparative merits of a centralised and decentralised system? I have not; but on general principles I am in favour of centralisation. Port Louis is a municipality, but it does not interfere with or have any control over the police in any way.

223. *By Mr. Barrett.*—What is the population of Mauritius? The population is divided into two classes, Indian and general. The Indian population is about 250,000, and the general, including English, French, Africans, Chinese, and all races perhaps under the sun, about 120,000.

224. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Is the municipality of Port Louis thoroughly satisfied with the police arrangements, and does the municipal institution work well? As to whether it works well, I cannot say; I have never heard any complaints, nor did I know of any during my 20 years' inspectorship. In case of fire the mayor acts, the police simply preventing the removal of property, or larceny. The mayor has his own fire brigade.

225. *By Dr. Huston.*—Has the municipality any police at all? No, they have only an Inspector for town markets; for the prevention or detection of crime they have no force. The police force numbers between 600 and 700 men for the whole island, and are purely a police force.

226. *By Mr. Braddon.*—If you have anything to add will you furnish it in writing? I will.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1886.

THOMAS PERKINS, *called and examined.*

227. *By Mr. Braddon.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of Police at Bothwell.
228. How long have you held that office? I have been about 40 years in the police, and about 25 years superintendent.
229. Have you been under both systems? Yes; I was about 15 years under the territorial, and between 24 and 25 years under the municipal.
230. Speaking generally, which system have you found to work best? Lately I have found the municipal?
231. What do you mean by lately? When I first went under the municipal police, after leaving the territorial, I did not think it worked well.
232. You got accustomed to it? Not so much that, but it depends entirely on the warden, whether he is a competent man, and takes an interest in police matters.
233. Do you think the success of the municipal police system is dependent on the personal consideration of the character of the warden? Yes, I think so. Where the warden is a competent man, and an experienced magistrate, it is favourable to the municipalities.
234. Do you think that the amalgamation of the police under one central head could be carried out without interfering with municipal control otherwise than in police matters? I could not say. I am decidedly of opinion that local control is far better than having the authority at the head. For instance, put an inspector at Hobart and let him have charge of the police, and compare it with the case where the warden is on the spot to take an interest in the duties and actions of the police, and to direct them if he is competent.
235. Would not amalgamation secure better concerted action? No; I am of opinion it would not.
236. Would it be any advantage to the police themselves in respect to promotion? I think it would, provided the head of the department was a thoroughly competent man, a man who knew his officers, and was competent to judge his men for promotion, and not make promotion without studying their abilities for the office.
237. Do you think the police should be drilled? I think that is very necessary.
238. Would it not be easier to drill the police under centralisation than at the present time, when they are divided? I cannot see how it would, for you could not march the men from one district to another to be drilled. I have only known the police to be marched out of the district once, and that was when the Launceston rebellion took place over the railway rates.
239. Do you think that amalgamation would tend to secure a better detective force? No, I do not, for this reason: I think if men take an interest in their duties and are experienced they are much more able to follow up a case than if mixed, because jealousy always arises. I was a detective in Hobart for years, and have always found the less there are in the detective line the better, because jealousy arises, and the information gets out to the public.
240. At present is there a detective force? I think Hobart and Launceston have proper detective forces. I do not think there are any detectives in the municipal districts. I do not know much about the territorial police since Mr. Forster retired. He was an officer we all looked up to, and was capable of giving us information and advice of any kind.
241. Have you observed any jealousy or failure to take concerted action arising out of the division of the police into two bodies, municipal and territorial? I have thought for years that the territorial police are a little jealous of the municipal officers.
242. Have you seen any failure in the execution of the public duties of the police arising out of those jealousies or failure to act in concert? No, I cannot instance any case, but I know there is a little jealousy sometimes. That would apply more to municipalities bordering on territorial districts. I am surrounded by municipalities.
243. Do you find any jealousy to exist between one municipality and another? No.
244. Have you ever observed as a result of divided authority any difficulty in tracing criminals or stolen property? I have not, for the simple reason that I act independently; and if a robbery occurs in my district I go, if duty calls me, to any part of the Island. I do not wait to communicate with others. If a flock of sheep were stolen in Bothwell and I heard they were at the Lake Country, or even at Chudleigh, I would go at once.
245. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Does not your own district suffer in your absence? I would not go without making arrangements. I would consult the warden, and ask him to put the next man, the one I thought best, in the place.
246. Would not your absence affect the district then? I do not think so, for the telegraph is always handy.
247. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Would you communicate with the warden or stipendiary magistrate of the district you went to. Decidedly, if I could; but I would not go out of my way if I thought by so doing the public interests would suffer. If I was on the trail of a man I would not go out of my way 10 or 20 miles to report to any one.
248. Have you ever found that the police are at all prevented from executing their duty by feelings of fear that they may offend the municipal councillors? I have never witnessed it of late years. In 1863, when I was in the Longford district, I have felt a delicacy in more than one case, but that was absolutely owing to the unfitness of the warden, and want of honesty or honest desire to perform his duties as warden; but never since that warden was changed have I found any difficulty. He was not fit to be a warden: he ruled us all. He would hold back anything to serve his purpose, even to manslaughter, I believe.
249. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Are the duties of the superintendent of police defined by Act of Parliament or by regulations of the municipal council? There is no regulation. A good deal of it is by Act of Parliament, but a good deal is left to our own judgment and discretion.
250. Has a warden power in any shape or form to interfere with your duties as laid down by Act of Parliament? I do not think he has; but, at the same time, it is proper that the superintendent of police should look to his warden sometimes for advice to help him to carry out his duty. Alluding to my own experience as a municipal officer, I only did once find interference, and I at once objected to it, and after that time I had my own way. If I had not, the whole thing would come to the ground. For the first 12 months I was at Longford the whole thing was drifting and becoming rotten; but the warden was then no gentleman. His successor, however, changed the thing altogether, and his successor made the thing perfect. I have never had any fault to find since. For the first 12 months it was becoming so bad that I spoke to Mr. Forster, telling him I would ask him to put me back again into the territorial. That was in consequence of bad wardenship. It all depends a great deal on the warden. If he is firm it gives the superintendent the privilege of being firm with his men, but if the warden is not firm the superintendent cannot be firm.

251. Have any cases came under your observation where the superintendents were deterred from doing their duty from fear of the municipal councillors? No, except during the first 12 months.

252. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—None in your present district? None whatever.

253. Are there any defects in the Tasmanian system of police as at present constituted? I can hardly answer that, for I do not go about much amongst the other districts. I should imagine the municipalities would work well under the superintendents I know, but I never consult with any superintendent as to advice. I never consider there is any man but one competent to give me advice or consult with, and if I had a hard case now I would consult him. I believe he is a clever man.

254. Suppose the police were centralised, and the wardens were deprived of all control in their respective districts, what would be the consequence? I think it would be like a boat unmoored—it would go. The head would be so far away and would so seldom see us that I do not think it would be as well as having the warden on the spot, particularly if the head was not a thoroughly practical man.

255. Can you give any information as to the economy of the municipal police as compared with the territorial? I think the municipal are far less expensive. There is more care taken, I think, of the items of money laid out, in every way.

256. You have not found crime increasing in municipal districts? No, crime is nothing like what it was years ago; crime has almost gone compared with what it was.

257. Is that owing to the police system? I cannot say it is. There is no doubt the police deter them in a great measure, but the people to commit crime are not here—there is not the same criminal class.

258. Are you not joined by one territorial district? There is the South Longford district, which has one man stationed at the Steppes and another at Great Lake; they are territorial police.

259. If that district was managed from one of the adjoining municipalities could not a great improvement be made in the protection given by the police force? I am of opinion it should be put under a municipality, because most of the property there is sheep country, and the sheep-owners live either at Hamilton or Bothwell, consequently there would be more stimulus given to the police on the spot.

260. There appears to be no interest taken by any particular individual? I do not think so.

261. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Do you think it is desirable that the Government should have entire control of the police? I do not.

262. If you have anything further to communicate on the subject, will you furnish it in writing? I will.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1886.

MR. D. BURKE, *called and examined.*

263. *By the Chairman.*—Have you been Warden of Westbury? Yes, for 11 years.

264. Are you still a member of the Municipal Council? I am.

265. How long have you been a councillor? About 18 or 19 years.

266. From your experience do you believe that want of united action militates against the success of the police? I do.

267. Can you give any instances of evils arising from the divided forces? I have known instances where, to my mind, the efficiency of the police has not been carried out. I have known an instance where, apparently, the divided authority seemed to some extent to destroy the efficiency of the force.

268. Do you remember how it affected the public interests when the railway rate was being enforced? I remember when the law of the land had to be put in force on landowners on whom the rate was imposed by the Government; it was necessary to enforce the rate by legal means, and to some extent the municipal police did not display that energy they should have done to assist in carrying out the law properly.

269. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Which police do you allude to—your own police or the police in general? I allude to the municipal police generally—the Launceston, Longford, Evandale, and Deloraine police. The action of the wardens of these districts was such that the impression left on my mind was that there was a sort of refusal to allow the municipal police to assist in carrying out the law.

270. *By the Chairman.*—Were you Warden of Westbury then? Yes.

271. Did you refuse? I did not.

272. Were you applied to for assistance? I was.

273. Did you assure the collector you would give all the assistance you could? It occurred this way: Mr. B. Shaw was appointed collector of the railway rate for Westbury; he applied to me as Warden of Westbury, and stated to me that he had been refused the assistance of the police to enable him to carry out his duties, and he asked me, as Warden, what I would be prepared to do to assist him. I told him the police were sworn in as constables for the territory, and should carry out the law of the land; I, as Warden of the district, would assist him by the police serving any summonses, and I, as a magistrate of the district, would take my seat on the bench and deal with the cases; if verdicts were given, and it was necessary for the police to carry out the law, he should have the assistance of the police of Westbury.

274. Are you aware, in your experience, that the police have refused to pursue offenders beyond the boundaries of their own district? I cannot of my own knowledge say so.

275. Are you aware that if the police desire to follow an offender into another district they are obliged to stop action until the permission of the superintendent of police of that district has been gained? I do not know if they are compelled to do so, but I know they do so. When they find it necessary to go into any other municipal district, they go to the superintendent and report before they proceed.

276. *By Dr. Huston.*—As a matter of courtesy? I do not know that, but I know it is done.

277. Is there any such law? No.

278. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think superintendents and constables should be appointed by wardens and councillors? I do.

279. Do you think that the Inspector of Police, if he had to make these appointments, would select officers obnoxious to the municipality? I could not answer positively; I could scarcely be prepared to suppose he would, but I have the idea that the appointments made that way might not be satisfactory to the municipal districts.

280. Do you think it would be well to remove police from one station to another? Not unless there was cause. It has very frequently been brought under my notice, and my opinion is decidedly strong on that point. I do not think that a constable who is doing his duty satisfactorily and well should be removed simply to carry out an idea that it would be well to remove him. I think if a man is not performing his duty to the inhabitants generally, and the authorities find it out, I think it is wise to remove him, and I have done so during my office as warden.

281. *By the Chairman.*—If it were known that a superintendent or constable were engaged in dealing, money lending, or jobbing of any kind, should he be removed? I do not think he should be retained in the force. It would act very injuriously against him as a police officer.

282. Has any case of that kind ever been brought under your knowledge? Not under my personal knowledge.

283. Would the provisions of the Licensing Act be better carried out if the police were centralised? I do not think it would make any difference as far as the Licensing Act is concerned whether under the centralised police or municipal. I have had experience of both systems at various times in that respect, and think they are about equal.

284. Are you aware of any instance in which local influences have prevented the police enforcing the law? I am not.

285. Do you consider a thorough detective force necessary? I do, most decidedly, and hold very strong opinions as to its necessity.

286. Should a detective force not be under one head? Most certainly; I am very decided on that.

287. Can it be constituted under a system of divided control? I should think not; I do not see how it could work efficiently.

288. Or if under persons in whom the Inspector had no confidence? Most certainly not; I do not think it would work satisfactorily under those circumstances at all.

289. Are not the police centralised in the whole of the Australian Colonies? I have not made myself acquainted with the practice of the police in other Colonies.

290. Under an united system, would there not be greater facilities for promotion and removal of constables from one district to another? I think so. I think with a system of police that were united under one head, men entering the force would have more opportunities and greater facilities given them to get into better positions in time if they kept in the force.

291. Would not the police have far more confidence and reliance of support in the execution of their duty if they were under one head? Yes.

292. Would not centralisation tend to increase the security of life and property? If by centralisation you mean that the police of the colony should be under the control of one head, I am strongly and decidedly in favour of it. Answering the question with these conditions, I do certainly think so.

293. How many superintendents of police are there? I do not know.

294. Do you think the police are more efficient in municipal than territorial districts? As far as my experience has gone, except with reference to the difficulties in special matters that have occurred, I think the efficiency of the municipal police is quite equal to that of the territorial. Of course you have to take into consideration the answers I have given to other questions. With the exception of the matters I have referred to, I do not know that the system of police under the central Government of the Colony has been more efficient or satisfactory for the protection of life and property of the inhabitants than the municipal police. Instances have come under my knowledge, and complaints have appeared in newspapers, of laxity of both municipal and territorial police. Taking the two systems together, I am not prepared to say from my own knowledge that there is very much to choose between them. There is great room for improvement in both systems as at present carried out.

295. Do you approve of the amalgamation of the offices of superintendent and council clerk? Decidedly not; it is calculated to destroy the efficiency of the police of the district wherever carried out. From long practical experience as warden, I am confident it is one of the things more calculated to destroy the efficiency of the municipal police than anything that could be introduced.

296. Do you think that the police in country districts would be made more efficient if we had a mounted police? I am very strongly of opinion it would.

297. Do you think a mounted police would induce a superior class of men to enter the service? I do not know.

298. Would not much time be saved in cases of emergency? The duties could be performed much more efficiently. A man could extend his duties over an area much speedier, more efficiently, and satisfactorily.

299. Would crime be more easily detected? Yes.

300. *By Dr. Huston.*—Are there not mounted police in many municipal districts now? I do not know such is the case. They are mounted in this way—they have the privilege of purchasing their own horses, and are allowed so much per year for forage. We have five such, the superintendent of police and four outstation constables. The superintendent receives £25 for forage for two horses, and the men receive £12 10s. each.

301. *By the Chairman.*—Is that amount sufficient? No; but a constable is very often privileged to put his horse in the paddock of a neighbour, which I do not at all agree with. Once a policeman is put under an obligation it destroys his efficiency.

302. *By Mr. Barrett.*—If the police were centralised would Hobart or Launceston be benefited in any way? I cannot say, because I have had no experience of police working in the towns; but, unless the police force of the colony is under one head, if any emergency arises, as in former cases, their efficiency is impaired. The whole force should be under one head, who should have power to concentrate them at any point when required.

303. Are you aware that Mr. Coulter issued every individual summons in the north throughout the railway districts during the railway excitement? I am not aware of it.

304. What would be the effect on the wardens, aldermen, and councillors of the rural municipalities if the police were centralised and outside their control? The effect would be that they would not have anything to do with them.

305. What would be the effect of the police being taken out of the hands of mayors and wardens? I do not think it would be satisfactory to the districts to take all the power out of the wardens and councillors. I am under the impression that if the police were centralised and under one head, the wardens and councillors should not lose all control over the police. My impression is that it would be beneficial for the General Inspector to have supreme control; he would direct the superintendent as to certain duties to be performed, but the wardens and councillors or mayor and aldermen should make the appointments as at present.

306. *By Dr. Huston.*—Do you think it would be right for the superintendent to be entirely independent of the warden? I think he should be, to some extent, subject to the control of the warden of the district.

307. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think if the police were centralised that the authority of the warden as chief magistrate would be thereby destroyed? I do not think so. I would not wish it to be implied that I thought so.

308. You believe that under centralisation of police the warden or stipendiary magistrate would still retain sufficient authority over the police? That is a nice point; I can see a difficulty that may arise. I think it would be simply going back to the old system in some respects. It would be a very unsatisfactory state of things to say that a warden should lose all control of the police, and should have no power to direct the police in little matters.

309. Would the wardens or stipendiary magistrates be deprived of sufficient authority? If provision is not made for in the Act it would be so.

310. You think provision could be made by Act of Parliament to give the warden and stipendiary magistrates the authority they should have? Yes, that is my impression, and the idea I have held for a long time.

311. It has been said that if you deprive a warden of the authority and management over the police that they will have nothing to do: is that true? Wardens as a rule have plenty to do. Decidedly it is not true; there are lots of other matters that they have to attend to.

312. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Has it come within your knowledge that through divided authority of the police any criminals have escaped being brought to justice? I cannot say I can give an instance of my own knowledge.

313. *By Dr. Huston.*—The cases cannot be many? I do not know of any case of my own knowledge.

314. Can you give any instance of your own knowledge that promotion would be more rapid under centralisation? There would be a greater degree of certainty that a man entering the police force might obtain a better position if the police were under one head than under so many different municipalities. A man entering the municipal force can only obtain a certain position there. If he enters as a private he may become sub-inspector, and may, perhaps, become superintendent; he cannot get beyond that.

315. Are you aware that in the territorial police promotion has been made without taking into consideration length of service or service at all? I am not aware of it; neither do I think that any length of service should entitle a man to promotion unless he is competent and has capacity to perform the duties of a better position than that he is placed in.

316. Are you aware that superintendents, both municipal and territorial, have held their situations for upwards of 40 years? I am not.

317. And that this length of service has been entirely neglected in respect to promotion in the Government service? I do not know of my own knowledge; but a man might be all his life in the force and not be promoted for want of ability—very properly so too.

318. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Are you aware that a stranger to the Colony has been appointed over the whole officers of the territorial police? I am not aware of it.

319. If such is correct, would you believe that some of the territorial police were not fit for promotion? It would be an injustice if there were in the force men fit for the position.

320. *By the Chairman.*—Have you anything further to add? I thoroughly believe efficiency cannot be satisfactorily or so well carried out unless the whole police force is under one head, who should have entire control of the police; but a system might be introduced by which municipal councillors should yet retain the appointment of constables.

321. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Has it been a custom in your municipality that persons committed for such offences as not putting their names on their carts, a series of questions are put to them, such as what ship did you come out in, height, &c., the questions being put by the superintendent of police? I am not aware of anything of the kind.

322. You are aware that an order was issued by the Government in 1881, asking that such enquiries should be made? No, I was Warden in 1881, and do not remember any such order.

MR. MYLES MAHONEY, *called and examined.*

322A. *By the Chairman.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of Police of Westbury.

323. How long have you held that office? Nearly 22 years.

324. Were you employed in the police prior to joining the Westbury police? I joined the Irish Constabulary in 1847, and continued in that force till 1857, over 10 years.

325. Were you in the force in this Colony before going to Westbury? I was. In 1858 I arrived at Launceston by the invitation of the then Mayor, Mr. Henry Dowling, at the time of the organisation of the police there; I was appointed to organise the force in Launceston, in conjunction with Mr. Coulter, now Superintendent of Police, Launceston.

326. How long were you there? About 7 years.

327. Have you been connected at any time with the territorial police? Never in this colony, but I have a thorough knowledge of its working.

328. You have a thorough knowledge of the working of the territorial as well as municipal police? I have a good knowledge of the working of both systems.

329. Which system do you think is the better? I do not approve of either system—they are both bad.

330. Which do you think is the worse? I think the police working under one head is very far the better system, but so far as efficiency is concerned I believe the municipal police are quite equal to the territorial.

331. Do you think the want of unity in the police is injurious? I certainly do, and there is not that unity at present that there should be.

332. Do you think the present system of divided authority is injurious? Yes, to the well-being of both services.

333. What is the area of your municipality? 300,000 acres.

334. What is the assessment? Last year it was £35,538.

335. What is your police force? Eight.

336. How are they divided? We have 4 out-stations, including Carrick Station. At Westbury there is one superintendent, a sub-inspector, and a petty constable; Carrick, one sub-inspector; Bracknell, one sub-inspector; Westwood, Hagley, and Exton have a petty constable each.

337. What is your constables' pay? Constables, 5s., and sub-inspector, 5s. 3d. per day; superintendent £150 per year, exclusive of £25 house rent and £25 forage. The police have quarters, except one, who receives 2s. 6d. per week rent, with uniform.

338. What is the system of promotion in your municipality? The system of promotion has been raising men from the ranks, and appointing them at once superior officers, which is very objectionable. I consider men should ascend step by step, and make themselves acquainted with the duties of the various grades.

339. Has that been the system in your municipality? It has not been.

340. From what cause? I do not know whether it is because some of the constables may be favourites of the councillors, and they wish to do them a favour by promoting them.

341. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Might it not be from superior ability? I do not think so. I do not think it is very desirable to have so many officers. I think one superintendent and one sub-inspector should be sufficient to supervise 5 men.

342. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Are you not consulted in these appointments? I am to a certain extent, but whether I objected or not the appointments would be made.

343. In opposition to your objection? I have never raised any particular objection, because it would not have been wise for me to do so.

344. *By the Chairman.*—Has the inspector of police any power to order the constables in your municipality? None whatever beyond what the law gives him. He has only the power of inspection, to see that they are properly clothed, and that there is a sufficient force.

345. He has no power to order them to special duty? Not without permission of the warden.

346. Do you approve of the amalgamation of the offices of superintendent and council clerk? I do not. It gives too much power to one man, who in prosecuting, takes down the evidence in his own case.

347. Do you think it would be wise to cut up the whole colony into municipalities, and give them control of the police? I do not think it would from my experience; and from my police experience at home and in the colony, I have had sufficient opportunities of judging.

348. Do you think it would be more economical to centralise the police? Quite as much so.

349. Are you aware that the tendency in all the Australian colonies is towards centralisation of police? Yes, all over the colonies. There are no police under municipal control in the Australasian colonies. In Ireland, such places as Cork, with 250,000 inhabitants and 200 police, Limerick, Belfast, and other large centres, all the police are under one head.

350. Are they a good force? There is no better body in the world. There you are not under the influence of the relatives and friends of the councillors, and can do your duty thoroughly.

351. Does not political influence paralyse the police there? No; the only police that are influenced are the London and Dublin Metropolitan police, and that is because they are under mayors instead of being centralised, and riots are the result.

352. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Are you aware that there is less crime in Dublin than in any other part of Ireland? I know there is a great deal of crime there, and that it is not safe for a man to travel there holding certain views.

353. Is there more crime there than in any other parts of Ireland? No, there is crime all over Ireland, unfortunately, at the present time.

354. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Who were the Phoenix Park murders perpetrated by? By Fenians.

355. Was not James Carey, one of the chief instigators, a member of the Dublin municipal council? Yes, and the police there are under the control of the mayor—the territorial police have no control there.

356. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Where there is divided authority in the police, is there not greater difficulty in tracing crime? Yes, I am of that opinion. I have no complaints to make against my masters, but speaking for the good of the colony, the police should be under one control.

357. If a crime were committed in Hobart, and the criminal escaped to a municipality, would there be greater difficulty in tracing him? Yes; there is a sort of jealousy existing, which cannot be denied.

358. Has any criminal escaped, owing to divided authority? I know such would have occurred had not an officer of my district arrested a man. A murder was committed at Mountain Vale, and information was sent to the policeman at Bishopsbourne, telling him to proceed there immediately. He said he had no horse, and then said he did not know the district. My officer, M'Clusky, offered him a horse, and said he would show him the place. After waiting for two hours he started and got lost on the road. M'Clusky went himself, and arrested the murderer. Mr. Perkins, Superintendent of that district, was quite jealous and annoyed that an officer of my district had arrested the murderer before his own man.

359. Do you know of a criminal escaping from the police being under divided authority? So far as I am personally concerned I receive co-operation from my brother officers.

360. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—If an offence is committed within your district, and you had reason to believe the offender had escaped to another district, before you proceeded to arrest him have you to communicate with the officers of that district? No; I would follow the offender into any district, and would not be stopped by any one.

361. In pursuing that course are you likely to come into collision with the heads of other municipalities? You are most certainly likely to come into contact with them, certainly with Mr. Coulter, who will not allow any municipal officer to interfere in his district without consulting him.

362. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Is Mr. Coulter jealous of any authority? Yes, except his own authority or the mayor's.

363. You decidedly think that the police should be centralised under the control of the Executive? Yes, under the Executive Government, and a depot formed where all the men should be drilled and disciplined before entering on their duties, especially before being sent to country stations. At the present time men are sent to out-stations when they are raw recruits, thoroughly ignorant of the nature of the duties they have to perform, even to serving an ordinary Court of Requests summons. There is no opportunity given them of learning their duty, and they have to pick it up as best they can.

364. Speaking of police being paralysed, was not that the case with the Launceston police during the railway riots? It was.

365. I mean the second time, when the mob attacked members of Parliament and paraded the streets? Certainly it was.

366. Was that political influence? They were under the control of the mayor, and whether the law was obnoxious or not, the mayor should not have withheld the assistance of the police.

367. *By the Chairman.*—Who was mayor then? Mr. Harrap.

368. Was Mr. Douglas an alderman? Yes.

369. What did you do at Westbury the time of the first railway riots? We rendered all the assistance we could. I am not aware what other municipalities did.

370. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Are you aware that the Launceston police rendered assistance, and that Mr. Coulter received a severe wound in carrying out his duty? Yes, I believe so; but my attention was occupied by my own district.

371. Did not the municipal police quell the riot? They did, with the assistance of the territorial police.

372. Are you aware that a deputation came from Launceston to the Government, and represented the disturbed state of the district, and that they asked the Government for assistance in keeping law and order? I am not aware of it; my attention was confined to my own district.

373. *By the Chairman.*—If the police were centralised do you believe greater facilities for promotion would exist? Yes, if the police were centralised there could be a system of competitive examination. Men are now promoted from the ranks in both systems, causing a great deal of dissatisfaction among the members of the force. The slow rate of promotion is not satisfactory, and then vacancies are often given to strangers.

374. Have you had experience in the other colonies? No, excepting in correspondence with the officers.

375. If the police were centralised would there be greater inducement to good men to enter the force? Yes, decidedly. At present the regulations for entering the force and promotion are not adhered to. See page 8 of the Manual. Men are not examined by a medical man, excepting Hobart and Launceston. The regulation that men should be able to read and write well is not adhered to, and men of very inferior education are taken into the force.

376. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Is it not found simply impossible to adhere to the requirements of the Manual through the scarcity of men? I do not think so, for sometimes there are from 20 to 40 applicants.

377. Do you attribute it to the want of system, which would be better carried out if the police were centralised? Yes, and to the influence of wardens, councillors, and their friends. The police committee are waited on, the claims of candidates put forward, and every influence possible is brought to bear on those who have the power to confer the appointments.

378. Do you think the provisions of the Licensing Act would be better enforced if the police were centralised? I do.

379. Do you know of any instances where local influences have prevented the police from enforcing the law? Yes. When I was a sub-inspector in Launceston I called on a hotel-keeper one night and told him he must not keep his house open, as it was after hours. He said, "If you go to the Launceston Hotel and Brisbane Hotel you will find the same, and I defy you to do your duty." I ordered him to clear his house, and he did so. I then went to the Launceston Hotel and found it occupied by a number of people. I told him I would make no exception, and he must clear his house. The house was cleared, and I went to the Brisbane Hotel to do the same. I found that most of my employers, several aldermen, were there. There was a hubbub all over the town next morning, and I got a gentle hint to be milder. I was milder, for I saw a police officer there could not do his duty independently. I went there a stranger and made no distinction, but found it would not do.

380. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Since you went to Westbury have you been so careful to carry out the Licensing Act? No; nor did I do so during my further time in Launceston. I took the hint and lesson given me.

381. *By the Chairman.*—Is the Licensing Act carried out in your municipality? Not as it should be.

382. Would the police feel securer in enforcing the law if centralised? I am of opinion that if they were centralised the police would be more independent to carry out every law.

383. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Is the Licensing Act better carried out in the territorial districts? Not a bit better.

384. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think a proper detective force necessary? Yes, decidedly so. There is no proper detective branch now, and that is very necessary to detect the sheep and cattle stealing that is going on now in the colony, and the police, municipal and territorial, are utterly powerless to cope with it. There is a great deal more sheep and cattle stealing going on than people imagine. If there was a proper detective force they would be sent to the district where the sheep and cattle stealing took place, under supervision of one of the officers there.

385. Can such a detective force be constituted under the present system? Certainly not. We had a detective force at home, and it was a distinct branch of the service, under one head, and they lent very great assistance to the preventive force.

386. How many municipal superintendents are there? Twenty-one, including Hobart and Launceston, and about ten territorial.

387. If the police were centralised would it be necessary to have so many superintendents? Certainly not. Clarence and other small districts should be amalgamated. The officers would have more men to supervise, and more to do, whilst the expenses would be much less. At home we had 52 men under each sub-inspector, and he was responsible to the county inspector, who was responsible to the inspector-general.

388. Do you think expense could be saved in that direction? Yes, certainly, by the amalgamation of officers.

389. Would a mounted police be advisable? Yes. We have mounted police in four out-stations. They keep a horse each, and are granted forage. In country stations mounted police are indispensable.

390. How much forage? £12 10s.

391. Is that sufficient to keep a horse in condition? No, it is not.

392. If you have anything further to add will you submit it in writing? I will.

MR. RICHARD DRISCOLL, *called and examined.*

393. *By the Chairman.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of Police of the Port Sorell district.
394. How long have you held that office? Twelve years.
395. Have you always been under the territorial police? Yes.
396. Have you any experience of municipal police? None whatever.
397. Do you consider that the divided authority of the police—municipal and territorial—has worked well? From my experience, I can say they have not worked well.
398. In what way? I have found that the superintendent of the municipality joining me on one or two occasions did not seem to give me that assistance I would expect him to do, and what I would have given him.
399. Will you explain what you mean by not giving assistance? On one occasion I discovered that certain property was stolen and that the offender was in his district. I proceeded to the district to arrest the offender, and called upon the superintendent to assist me. He went with me, and after the man was arrested the superintendent wanted me to summons him as a witness in the case. I informed him I thought it would be putting the country to unnecessary expense, and he replied, "Very well, you can have your own way," and I found that he afterwards gave evidence on behalf of the accused, and worked for the defence to get the acquittal of the prisoner.
400. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Was the accused any relation of his? Not that I am aware of.
401. *By the Chairman.*—Did he act so from jealousy? I think so, although I called on him, and acquainted him with my mission on entering his district.
402. What district was that? Deloraine.
403. If a criminal or offender escapes from your district into Deloraine, would you not attempt to follow him? I know of no law to prevent me, but as an act of courtesy I called on him.
404. Would you arrest your man before calling on the superintendent? I would follow up the prisoner first, and communicate with the superintendent afterwards.
405. Do you consider the division of the police force is an injury to the protection of life and property? I think so certainly, and will give an instance. On another occasion there was a warrant issued for the arrest of an offender in my district, and I traced him into the Deloraine district. I communicated with the superintendent of police there and informed him of that fact, but he took no steps whatever to arrest the offender, although the latter was well known to the superintendent.
406. *By Dr. Huston.*—Did you inform the warden of Deloraine of the case? I did not.
407. Did you not think it your duty to do so? No; I reported the matter to the inspector of territorial police, my chief, at the time.
408. Did he take any action? Not that I am aware of.
409. *By the Chairman.*—Do you consider from your experience that the lack of unity in the police force is injurious to its good working and efficiency? I certainly think so.
410. How many police have you in your district? Seventeen all told now, there having been an increase of one on the first of last month.
411. What salary do you receive? £200 per annum, with £25 house, £25 travelling allowance, and £50 forage for two horses.
412. What is the area of your district? 561,920 acres.
413. What is the constable's pay? 5s. 3d. per day.
414. Have you any mounted police? On the outstations the men are mounted, with the exception of three.
415. Do you allow them forage? They get their own horses, and are allowed £25 for forage.
416. Is that sufficient? I think so.
417. Would you recommend centralisation of the police, or the division of the whole colony into municipal police districts? I have not given the matter sufficient consideration to enable me to give an answer.
418. Do you think the police now under existing circumstances would be more efficient if centralised? Yes, they now seem to be disunited.
419. Would the provisions of the Licensing Act be better carried out if your police were subject to local influences? I have not much knowledge of the working of municipal police, but in my district if there is any violation of the law I take action immediately.
420. Do you enforce the Licensing Law? Yes.
421. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Have you ever known the ends of justice being frustrated from divided authority or jealousy on the part of the superintendent of municipal or territorial police? No, I cannot say I can, for I am isolated from them. The superintendent of Deloraine resides 35 miles from me, and a police district joins me on the other side. It is very seldom I am brought in contact with municipal officers.
422. *By Dr. Huston.*—In the case you have just mentioned, would not the ends of justice have been frustrated unless you had taken action? Yes, it would on that occasion; but I succeeded in arresting the offender.
423. You did not receive the assistance you had a right to expect from the municipal police? No; nor the assistance I would have given him had he come into my district.
424. If you had not taken the offender might the ends of justice have been frustrated? Yes.
425. Do you believe in the removal occasionally of constables from one station to another? I think it is very desirable that they should be removed every two or three years, and superintendents also.
426. On what grounds do you base your opinion? They make a great many friends, and also some enemies if they remain long in one place, and it is very desirable that these connections should be broken up by removal.
427. Does that extend to the superintendents? Yes, I think even the superintendents should be occasionally removed.
428. *By the Chairman.*—Who was your predecessor? Mr. Reynolds. He was there for 16 years.
429. Have you heard complaints to the effect that his long residence there was not desirable? Yes.
430. And that it was felt by the inhabitants that his removal to another station would have been of advantage to the police? I have heard that stated repeatedly.
431. Do you think a proper detective force is necessary? I think there should be a small detective force, say,

two in the south and two in the north, men who would have a thorough knowledge of horses and cattle. I believe by such means a great many of the horses and cattle now stolen would be recovered.

432. Should such force be under the inspector of police? Yes, I think so.

433. Do you think a detective system would be satisfactory unless under one head? I do not think so; they should be under the inspector of police, and that would allow of municipal and territorial districts applying for the detectives.

434. You would recommend that the municipal police should obtain their services through the inspector of police? Yes; provided there were only two appointed for the south and two for the north.

435. Under a centralised system, do you think greater facilities would be afforded for promotion? I do.

436. Do you think the police as a body would prefer to be under one head? I do, from my experience, and several of them have spoken to me about it.

437. *By Mr. Braddon.*—In the case of Lillico's horse, were not the ends of justice possibly defeated by the inaction of the Deloraine police? Possibly so.

438. Will you state the particulars of that case? I had communicated with the superintendent of police stating that a horse was stolen. Having received no reply, I despatched some of my own officers to make enquiries. They enquired at one of the outstations in the Deloraine district, and got a description of a horse that had been taken through it which tallied with that of the stolen horse, but up to that time the Deloraine superintendent had not given any information of the matter to his men. From the description given by the Deloraine man, I believe it was the stolen horse that he had seen.

439. You have no doubt that the police at the outstations were not supplied with the information? Not the slightest doubt of it, for they gave the information to one of my officers.

440. Do you know anything about the action taken by the superintendent of the Deloraine police in regard to Riley, against whom I had issued a warrant? Yes. I received a report from my sub-inspector that a warrant had been issued for the arrest of Riley, and from enquiries made he was traced into the Deloraine district, and had been seen in that township. I communicated with the superintendent of police, who knew Riley perfectly well. Some time elapsed, but I received no reply, and one of my officers, who was taking an escort through a few days after, was informed that Riley was seen in company with the Deloraine police. He telegraphed back to me to that effect, and I again communicated with the superintendent, asking why the warrant was not enforced, to which I received no reply. A couple of days afterwards Riley came into my district, and was arrested by one of my officers.

441. Do you know what subsequently happened at the Leven? He was arrested at the Leven, and a telegram was received from the superintendent of police at Deloraine, asking that he might be released on bail, and he would be responsible for the debt.

442. That is to say, the man was not to be brought before the magistrate who issued the warrant? Yes.

443. *By the Chairmen.*—In the case of sheep and cattle stealing, do you not think that thieves have greater facilities in consequence of the divided forces? Most unquestionably they have.

444. By their passing from territorial into municipal districts, or *vice versa*? Yes.

445. Do you know of any instance where stolen sheep, horses, or cattle have been taken from one district to another without the police taking any action? Only in Lillico's case.

446. Do you think that centralisation of the police would have a favourable result, in that the whole body could be drilled and exercised as a section of the defence force? Yes, and it is the wish of the police at Port Sorell that they should join the defence force.

447. Have you a good body of police? Yes, a very good body of young active men, with the exception of one or two.

448. Do you take them without examination? The inspector makes the appointment, but where I know of a good man applying, I recommend him.

449. *By Dr. Huston.*—They are not all local men? No.

450. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Has a justice of the peace of the district any sort of authority over the police? None whatever.

451. Do they ever attempt to exercise it? I have never known them do so during my twelve years' experience.

452. *By the Chairman.*—Has the stipendiary magistrate any authority over you? None whatever.

453. The only authority over you is the inspector? That is all.

454. Do you think that is sufficient? I think so.

455. Do you think it would be possible for the stipendiary magistrate of the district to have authority and power to direct the police? I scarcely think so, because he is the magistrate who presides to try all cases, and if he had authority and any difficult case arose I would ask his advice, and then he would have to try the case on which he had given advice to the prosecutor. I think the magistrate should be an impartial judge.

456. You think it would make him prosecutor as well? I think so.

457. *By Mr. Barrett.*—How many men have you at Latrobe? Three.

458. How is the Licensing Act administered there? My reports say it is fully carried out.

459. Are you aware that gambling is carried on there till all hours of the morning? I am not aware of it. If I had known it I would have proceeded against them.

460. *By the Chairman.*—Is the Licensing Law carried out in your district? I have every reason to believe it is.

461. And that gambling does not exist? I am not aware of it.

462. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Are you aware that gambling is carried out at Formby? No; I have visited the public-houses there several times and never saw any gambling.

463. If you have any further suggestions will you submit them in writing? I will.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1886.

MR. RICHARD PROPSTING, *called and examined.*

464. *By the Chairman.*—Have you been in the police? Yes. I was Superintendent at Hobart and Chief District Constable at Campbell Town, under Mr. Mason.

465. How many years were you at Campbell Town. Seven years.

466. Was that under the territorial system? Yes.

467. And since then? I was Superintendent in Hobart for 17 years. I had 24 years' service altogether.

468. You have been under the municipal system? Yes, for the last 17 years.

469. Do you believe that the divided system in this Colony is desirable? No, it is a great mistake.

470. Do you consider that centralisation of the police would be a better system? Yes; the police should be centralised, regardless of expense, as it would be beneficial to the whole community.

471. Would it be more economical? I cannot go into the question of finance, as I know nothing about it; but I can speak for the efficiency of the police and jealousy existing between the districts.

472. If they were centralised would they be more efficient? Yes.

473. Do you think the want of unity tells against the present divided system? It does.

474. That divided authority is injurious? It is.

475. Can you give any reason why you think it is injurious? Yes. Under municipal government the executive officers of police are not free agents in police matters at all times. By effluxion of time, and by the desire that often arises for "new blood" in the council, there is a change of aldermen, and men are appointed to the council and police committee by virtue of circumstances, who are totally unfit, intellectually and otherwise, to have charge of the police.

476. You mean that the men who are elected, men unaccustomed to the administration of the police, are not the men who can properly direct the police force? Aldermen change by effluxion of time every 3 years; new faces appear in the Council; and men who are totally ignorant of police duties and magisterial duties come in to carry out their ideas. They have crude, ignorant opinions of what should and what should not be done, and there is an unnecessary and unwarrantable interference in police matters. That I know, from experience, to exist, and it is very detrimental to the efficiency of the service. There is also jealousy existing between the officials of the municipalities as to the efficiency of their respective forces; there is no unity of action between the forces; on the contrary, they will checkmate each other if they possibly can; and with the present available auxiliaries of telegraph wires, unity and concerted action should prevail in all matters requiring it. They should act as one force; but such is not the case. I have been instructed to place one of my men on duty in Liverpool street, especially on Saturday night, to dog the steps of one of the territorial police to see what he did and where he went. I knew such action was fatal to unity, but such was the state of things I was obliged to carry out, for a great deal depended on my inaction. Certain men were privileged to policemen. Very many breaches of the law had to be winked at. I have initiated proceedings, and was told not to proceed with them till I was further instructed. They were never carried out. I was told to leave them in abeyance till told to carry them out, and I was never so told. It is decidedly wrong to place so much power in the hands of men totally unfit to wield it. They take men from the chopping-block, the grocers' shop, the ironmongery, inexperienced and untried—how is it possible for them to go into the council and administer police business? They cannot do it, and there is an unwarrantable interference with the men as to what are their duties. There is the jealousy of the municipal districts also to work against. One man cannot enter another's district without reporting himself. I will give an instance. I had a warrant for the apprehension of a man for murder; he was in the Oatlands district working for Mr. Askin Morrison; I travelled hurriedly and succeeded in apprehending him. I walked from Currijong Creek and reported myself to Mr. Morrison, the man being his shepherd. I took the prisoner to the constable's station at the Half-way House, and left him in charge of the constable there, and left provision for his expenses by coach to Campbell Town. I walked all night, arriving at Ross next morning, and reported myself to Mr. Mason, the police magistrate. Owing to the jealousy of the police in the district in which I apprehended the man, a complaint was made against me for going into another district and apprehending a man without reporting it to the police of that district, a matter which my judgment told me not to do. I thought I was right in doing so, as I was sworn in as a constable for the whole colony, but the jealousy existing for my so doing was a very serious annoyance to me, and I did not care afterwards to go into the district of a municipality. A policeman should go into any district without reference to district; the police should exercise their energies to catch robbers wherever they may be. The present system engenders ill-feeling between men who ought to always act in union.

477. Your experience leads you to believe that the want of unity in the police force has been an evil? Yes; it was a great mistake to introduce such a system at all. The colony was not ripe for it, and the longer it continues the worse it will be, till you will have to alter it.

478. You think that when the Government instituted municipal government here they ought to have retained in their own hands the command of the police? Most decidedly.

479. That it was not sufficient to retain power to suggest and advise—you think they should retain power to command? It was a fatal mistake not to have the police centralised—the greatest mistake ever made by any Government.

480. Do you think the offices of superintendent and council clerk should be amalgamated? No; it is not compatible for one man to hold the two offices; regardless of expense, they should be separated.

481. Is not the tendency in all the Australian colonies to centralise the police? This is the only colony that I know where they are not.

482. Do you think that the centralised system would offer greater facilities for promotion in the service? Yes; it would if you had an intelligent reliable man, and let him promote men in the service who are worthy of it, and thus you would do away with that outside pressure which brings men into the police. The police committee select from applicants for police employment the man who suits their views, often influenced by testimonials given by persons who possess a very crude knowledge (if any) as to the fitness for such employment. Mode of selection:—The applicants upon answering to their names are admitted into the committee room; after answering questions that are put to them by the committee they retire. Then one of the committee proposes the applicant, the remaining two members of committee approving. Then the question is put to the superintendent of police, "Do you object?" The superintendent would be wanting in tact if he did object, knowing the uncertainty of the tenure of his office if he ran counter to the committee. I have known good reliable men whose applications have been rejected simply on account of their religion. It was a barbarous thing to do, but I was powerless to prevent it. I must admit there were honourable exceptions with some committees, but very few.

483. Under a well devised system would greater inducements be offered to men of activity and character to enter the force? Yes; under certain conditions. If you want an intelligent reliable force you must centralise them. In fact, to make the police efficient there should be a barracks for them. There your force could be drilled, and there the city police should live. Now they live in the outskirts or wherever they can get rent cheapest. There is no possibility if an emergency occurs of concentrating the men in a short time. It is a very bad system altogether that now exists.

484. You have had long experience of the working of the Licensing law? I have.

485. Would the provisions of the Licensing Act be better carried out if the police were not subject to local influences? That is a question I cannot answer; but in forming your Licensing Bench do not let the men who represent the citizens have anything to do with the police, or with carrying out the Licensing and Lodging-house laws: let it be under police control, independent of local or election influences. I had always give publicans considerable latitude. Once I sent a printed circular to the publicans of Hobart calling their attention to the 39th section of the 21st Victoria, No. 39, stating that after a certain date the clause referred to would be carried out, viz., closing at 10 o'clock p.m. The then mayor said the clause was too stringent, and that I was to give 20 minutes' grace; but my experience is that they will require an additional 20 minutes after that. My reason for giving notice was to induce them to take action to protect themselves against the drastic clauses of the Act referred to, that it might be made less stringent, and carried out with a beneficial effect.

486. You have suffered from being considered too lenient in carrying out that Act? Yes, I was virulently abused in the press.

487. Did you find it utterly impossible to carry out that Act? The Licensing Act is openly infringed. I will give an instance. There was a publican in Hobart who used to keep a store upon his licensed premises. It was brought under my notice, and I cautioned the publican not to do so. He continued, and I reported the case to the mayor. The mayor was then in business, and supplied the man with the goods, and he told me not to go on with the case. If I had gone on with it he had power to suspend me, and my services might have been dispensed with.

488. You found it would be impolitic in you to enforce the law? I would have lost my situation if I had, no doubt of it.

489. Do you know instances where policemen have told you they could not do their duty because they would lose their positions if they did. I will not go into what I have been told, I will only give you my own actual experience. I could tell you more then enough to show a change was necessary, no doubt of that.

490. *By Dr. Huston.*—If centralisation of police took place, what position would the wardens of municipalities occupy in reference to the police? The wardens should not have control over the police.

491. Would it be desirable that the rural police should be under one head? They should be centralised at once, regardless of expense.

492. In the case of the country districts, should they be entirely independent of the chief magistrate? Certainly not. Give me gentlemen like Mr. Tarleton, Mr. Whiteford, or Mr. Mason, gentlemen of birth, education, and intelligence, and who would not be influenced by any petty local influences, to serve under. It is detrimental in every way to the service for men unfitted by birth, education, and training to have control of the police, either in the city or country.

493. Could not sufficient authority be given by Act of Parliament to the presiding magistrate over the police of the district? Yes, decidedly; you can give what authority you like by Act of Parliament.

494. Do you think if centralisation were adopted now that any of the evils of the old Imperial system could be repeated? That would depend. It would be unsafe to give fourth-rate men too much power; it makes them arbitrary. Let there be a competent head of the police; let the Government take charge and appoint a resident magistrate in every district, let the police be subservient to the magistrates, and let the magistrates be responsible to the head. The magistrates will see that there is no abuse; and, above all, let the old hands be swept away—they know too much to hold office in the police.

495. When you were in the Hobart police had you any detectives? Yes, two, and an assistant.

495A. Had any of your detectives been convicts? Yes, they had; nearly all the old police came out under the flag.

496. Do you think a proper detective force a necessity? Yes, certainly, if it is properly selected and organised.

497. Do you believe to have a safe detective police system it should be under one head? Yes, most certainly; two distinct branches under one head, on the same principle as the Victorian police.

498. Do you think a detective system can be properly constituted if the police are divided as at present? No; it is simply impossible to do it.

499. Do you believe that the police would have more confidence and reliance of support in the execution of their duty if under one head? I do.

500. Do you believe that centralisation would tend to greater security of life and property? Yes; without hesitation I say emphatically, yes. There is one great evil at present. A man is allowed to resign from one district through kind feeling on the part of the councillors, when he should have been dismissed; no record is made of it, and however unfit he may be for the position, he may join the police in another district.

501. Do you know an instance of that? Yes. I could tell you a great deal more, and things that would surprise you; but I have told you sufficient to show the necessity of centralising the police. I repeat, the present system is rotten and bad in every respect.

502. *By Dr. Huston.*—Do you think that under the condition of things you suggest, that there should be a barracks, and the city police concentrated, that it would be advisable for them to join the defence force of the colony? That is outside my province. There is very little crime in the city; the property that now wants looking after is sheep and cattle in the country. There is a very great deal more sheep and cattle stealing going on than we know anything of; they are stolen and not looked after, and that is the property that now requires attention.

503. *By the Chairman.*—If you have any further suggestions will you supply them in writing? I do not want to say anything further.

MR. GEO. MURRAY, *called and examined.*

504. *By the Chairman.*—Have you been in the police? Yes; lately I was sub-inspector in the Clarence police.

505. For how long? Six months; I was petty constable in the same district since 1880.

506. From being petty constable you were made sub-inspector? Yes.

507. Why did you leave the service? I was called upon to resign.

508. Why? A charge was laid against me for having said the superintendent of police was under the influence of Mr. J. R. Chapman, a publican, and it was decided that I could not substantiate the charge. I denied that I had made any charge against the superintendent, and Mr. Young, one of the councillors, was of the same opinion, but the majority of the police committee thought I had, and I was called upon to resign. That came out of a previous matter which I will briefly state. Mr. C. E. Featherstone, solicitor, was president of the Bellerive rowing club, and he found that stones had been thrown at the door of the shed, and holes made in the roof. He wrote to the superintendent of police, and suggested that certain action should be taken, as it was wilful destruction of property. The superintendent placed the matter in my hands, which led to informations being laid against Masters Chapman, Maum, son of one of the councillors, and Propsting, brother-in-law of Mr. Featherstone. I saw Mr. Westbrook, one of the trustees of the club, and he signed the charge against the young men. They were called on to appear at court, and witnesses were summoned; but the evening before they were to appear at the court the superintendent of police gave them to understand that they need not appear, as he would have the case withdrawn. The witnesses attended next morning, but the defendants did not, and the superintendent of police withdrew the case, saying the defendants had apologised. Messrs. Chapman and Maum credited me with having brought their sons into trouble, and Mr. Maum laid a charge against me for propagating freethought doctrine, or distributing freethought literature, I forget which. There was an enquiry into it, but there was no proof of my being guilty. In my defence I then stated, in answer to some of the charges made, that a person had come to my bedside whilst ill and said that Mr. Chapman, who keeps a public-house there, had said in his bar that he would use his influence against me; he had certain influence over the councillors, and would have me out of it; that he had also influence over the superintendent of police, and he called on certain persons in the bar to witness it. This was a woman who informed me against whose husband a prohibition liquor order had been made, and I was using my influence to prevent his getting drink, and she told me. It was asked whether the order prevented his getting drink, and Chapman said no, he got drink when he wanted it. I said so, and one of the police committee asked me if I believed the statement that Chapman had influence over them, and I replied I did not believe he had influence over Mr. George Morrisby. Mr. McDermott asked if I thought Chapman had influence over him; I replied, I had formerly, but did not now; but I believed he had influence over Mr. Maum, another councillor. As a matter of fact the superintendent of police was never mentioned, and I was not asked if Chapman had influence over him, but these remarks were made the grounds of the charge against me. The superintendent then laid a charge against me for making statements injurious to his character.

509. Who is the superintendent of police there? Mr. Morrisby, brother of one of the councillors.

510. Were you summoned? Yes, and appeared, and had my witnesses. I produce the charge against me. My case was heard, and I was called on to resign, although I had called my witnesses to prove what was told me. The woman's husband had been getting drink in spite of the order, and she told the warden and superintendent, but as nothing came of it she tried me. I called witnesses to prove it, but was called on to resign.

511. Do you believe that was the only cause why you were called on to resign your office? Yes. When I was made sub-inspector, Mr. Young, a member of the police committee, and who tried to do justice when my case was tried, said he would not recommend me as sub-inspector, because if I was appointed I would be trying to do my duty with the public-houses, meaning in regard to carrying out the Licensing Act, and that I would only be turned out. I told him I would try and do my duty and see if it was so. I had heard the same said before, and wanted to see if it was true.

512. Do you believe that it was in consequence of your doing your duty in carrying out the Licensing Act that you were dismissed? Yes, simply that, and for no other reason. I tried to enforce the Act, and it did not do. In that district it is only necessary for a constable to serve the warden and his friends as a kind of servant and it is all right; but if he does his duty he makes enemies. During the time I was in office, six months, the books will show that I was more times before the bench giving evidence than all the rest put together, and the man who took my place eighteen months ago has never, I believe, had a charge, and so long as he does nothing he is all right, but if a man does his duty he makes enemies.

513. Do you think in that municipality a man can do his duty independently? I feel certain he cannot.

514. If he did he would make enemies of those in authority and would be dismissed? Yes, he would be out of it directly.

515. Do you desire to make any statement with regard to the three young men before mentioned? Those young men were a great annoyance to the frequenters of the Mechanics' Institute there when amusements were going on, and also in the way of churches when dismissing, by jumping on ladies' backs. I had heard complaints, and was determined to stop it. They thought as they were people of influence a constable could not interfere.

516. Did you witness them throwing the stones? No; but I had witnesses who did.

517. Who was on the Bench that day? Mr. Lamb and a second magistrate.

518. Was any reason assigned for the non-appearance of the lads? The superintendent said they had apologised for the damage done, and he withdrew the information.

519. How many police are there in your district? Four, and the superintendent, with two specials—one at South Arm, and one at Muddy Plains.

520. You say the superintendent is brother to one of the councillors? Yes.

521. Ought the offices of superintendent and council clerk be amalgamated? No; Mr. Morrisby is both, and it is very undesirable. The result is that he gives his time to council matters, and cannot go through his district. There is on an average 700 sheep lost annually in the district, and in my time no effort was made to arrest the thieves. I once reported a suspicious case, and the superintendent went and asked the man, who denied it. The man afterwards taxed me with having reported it, and I was chary afterwards of giving information, as it only got me into trouble for nothing. I saw two lambs passing over on the steamer; they had been lost, and I had a suspicion that they were being taken to town, so I reported it, but no action was taken, and I took no further action.

522. Does sheep-stealing exist in that district? Yes; Mr. Lamb himself has lost 200 in one year.

523. You do not think the police trouble themselves in the matter? No; they do not trouble themselves to find out whence they go. Amongst the people in the district it is generally believed that the people in power know more about where the sheep go than anyone else, and it is no use reporting to the police.

524. Do you think centralisation of the police desirable? Most desirable for a man who wants to do his duty, and for the public.

525. What is the general feeling in your district? That the police should be centralised.

526. Do the police feel that they have too many masters? The first regard is will it pay, or will it suit, before taking any action. They first have to find out if the people in power are concerned. If they are, enquiries are made, but if carried out leads to a lot of trouble.

527. Can the Licensing Act be carried out under such a system? It could be, but it is not. The public-houses on the Point are open all night, Sunday and week-day, and no effort is made to stop it.

528. Is drunkenness and gambling allowed? Yes. I laid a charge against a publican at Rokeby for breaches of the Licensing Act, but under the eyes of the superintendent it can go on as it pleases. My two charges are the only charges against publicans for the last seven or eight years. The last, except mine, was laid by Mr. Pedder, when superintendent there.

529. *By Mr. Braddon.*—What happened in those two cases? They were fined 5s. and costs.

530. *By the Chairman.*—Do you believe, as a policeman, that you could not honestly perform your duty in that municipality? I am quite certain I could not, and that was why I tried it. I had heard it said that it could not be done before I tried it.

531. You think a man cannot do his duty there and keep his office? I am sure of it.

532. Have you testimonials as to character? Yes, from the very gentlemen who dismissed me. They are now in Mr. Hedberg's office.

533. Will you place them in the hands of the Committee? I will.

534. *By Mr. Braddon.*—If in the two instances of information being laid against publicans during the last seven or eight years, conviction followed, why were not more informations laid? In that case I laid the information, and it was at an out-station. The public-house there was not so glaringly conducted as those on the Point, where breaches of the Act could be seen every night and Sunday. The hotel at Rokeby is five miles from the Point, and is much better conducted than those on the Point.

535. But if habitual breaches of the law went on, why were not more charges laid? Rokeby being an out-station I had control there; the other hotels are at Bellerive, and under the immediate care of the superintendent, and there the constables would not lay a charge without consulting their superior. It is the superintendent's province to lay the charge, and the police to report.

536. Have you brought these cases under the notice of the superintendent? I have brought under the notice of the superintendent breaches of the Licensing Act which occurred on the Point, but nothing came of it. A constable will not make a great number of reports against public-houses when he is aware that the superintendent is cognisant of it, and in the very house when the breach is committed. The superintendent is sometimes drunk in the public-house, and brought home by the policemen. The men would not there make a complaint. The cases I reported were where the bars were opened on Sunday, and where liquor was served to prohibited persons. We had 5 or 6 persons prohibited under the Act, but in no instance were they prosecuted. When they were caught in the very act, I reported them to the superintendent of police.

537. Did he take action? He went to the publican and spoke about it, and then there would be a little change for a day or two, but it was soon as bad as ever. The council there is looked on as the "Chapman Ministry," for he returns what councillors he likes. The business of the municipality is talked over with Chapman in the bar.

538. *By Dr. Huston.*—He pulls the strings? Yes. I will give another instance of how things are carried on. There was damage done to a wheelbarrow, and the owner complained to the superintendent, and suspected two of the young men before mentioned, and gave him a walking-stick found on the spot. The superintendent asked me to find out the owner of the stick. I did so, and told the superintendent, but nothing further was done in the matter. The superintendent never told me about any damage being done, and I did not find out about it till some time after, and as the stick belonged to the same party no more was done about it. That is how things are done in that district.

539. *By the Chairman.*—Do you state, that if notice is given to a publican at Bellerive not to sell liquor to a confirmed drunkard, that the publican can break the law? It has been done openly.

540. With the knowledge of the superintendent, the warden, and the councillors? Yes, quite with the knowledge of the warden, for the wife and son of the prohibited person have complained of it to the warden. The wife has told me that she had complained to the warden, and that Mr. C. E. Featherstone, solicitor, and W. A. Guesdon, M.H.A., had spoken to the warden about it. I know she complained to the police. My orders from the superintendent was not to go about as a spy on the publicans, and the same orders were given to the police.

541. If you have anything further will you furnish it in writing? I will.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1886.

MR. H. G. QUODLING, *called and examined.*

542. *By the Chairman.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of the Penal Establishment, Hobart.

543. Have you had experience in our police forces? Yes; both municipal and territorial.

544. For how long? Nearly 29 years.

545. Do you approve of our present dual system? No; I disapprove of it.

546. Do you think it would be a better arrangement if our police were centralised? I do.

547. Do you approve of the amalgamation of the offices of council clerk and superintendent of police? I do not.

548. Have you any reason to believe, from experience, that municipal police cannot do their duty independently? From what I have heard I believe so, but not from personal experience. I have frequently heard members of the municipal police say it was impossible to perform their duties independently, and that they were not independent.

549. If the police force were centralised, would it affect municipal action not connected with the police? Not at all.

550. Would not the provisions of the Licensing Act be better ensured if the police were not subject to local influences? I should say so; it is my opinion they would.

551. Do you consider a proper detective police system desirable? Yes, in Hobart and Launceston, and for the purpose of detecting sheep-stealers.

552. Could there now be a proper detective police force? There could be with a large force, but not with a want of unity and the division of the police of the whole colony.

553. Could not a detective force be arranged under the present police system? No; certainly not.

554. To have a proper detective force you believe all the police should be under one head? I do.

555. Do you not think it could be properly constituted under a system where the police are divided? I do not think it could be properly carried out.

556. Do you know if it is the tendency of all countries to centralise the police? Tasmania is the only country I know where the police are divided.

557. Do the Executives of all the Australian colonies retain supreme authority over their police? Yes.

558. Is Tasmania singular in its divided system. It is quite so.

559. Under an united system would not greater facilities be given for the protection of life and property? That is my opinion.

560. Do you believe that sheep and cattle stealing would be more easily detected. I do.

561. And that greater facilities would be given for the removal of constables? Certainly; you cannot remove men from one municipality to another.

562. Do you think it desirable that constables should remain long in one place? There may be exceptions, but as a rule it would be desirable to remove them, particularly single men.

563. Would a centralised police have more reliance upon support in the execution of their duty? I certainly think so.

564. Would not centralisation of the police tend to increase subordination and concerted action? Certainly.

565. May not the general welfare be defeated by a system which places the police at the caprice of independent local bodies? Yes.

566. If the police were united under one head, would the present number of superintendents be required? No, not at all. Four superintendents are quite sufficient for Tasmania—one for Hobart, one for Launceston, and two others. The superintendents at Hobart and Launceston could have the supervision of adjoining districts.

567. Could a saving be effected in this direction? Yes, decidedly.

568. Without damaging the efficiency of the police? Certainly.

569. Could not a system be devised giving the Government absolute control of the police? Yes, certainly.

570. Without depriving the wardens of municipal districts of sufficient authority? If the police were centralised there would be no local authority.

571. Do you think the wardens should have authority over the police? I do not. The police should be centralised under one head.

572. Do you think the municipal police are more effective than the territorial? I am not aware of it—I certainly do not think so. There are good officers and good men in both forces.

573. Do you believe the superintendents and constables are deterred from doing their duty, by fear of offending the municipal authorities? Generally, I believe they are; but there are a few exceptions where superintendents would not be deterred by any influences from doing their duty.

574. Do you believe that great difficulties arise in the police force from a too extensive subdivision, want of unity, and lack of centralised control? I do.

575. Do you think it is sufficient for the Executive to have power only to advise and recommend? No.

576. You believe the control of the police should be under the Executive? I do, certainly.

577. If the police were under the Government, and rules for their guidance and discipline were made by the Governor-in-Council, do you think there would be any fear of a return to that arbitrary and tyrannical system which is said to have existed under the Imperial system? There is not the slightest fear.

578. Would not much time be saved, and greater efficiency attained in prosecuting criminals, if the police were under one head? I certainly think so.

579. Do you think mounted police desirable in country districts? If there was a detective force, it would be almost necessary that they should be mounted, but I do not think it necessary to have troopers.

580. Do you think the police should be attached to the defence force? On special cases of emergency they could. I believe they should be a thoroughly drilled body, as the police of Hobart and Launceston now are. There they are efficiently drilled, but not in other places.

581. If the police were centralised would it not induce a superior class of men to join the force? I believe so.

582. Do you believe an united force under one head would be more effective in case of riot or emergency? I have no doubt of it.

583. Could not a better system of promotion be devised than that now existing in the force? The officers should be promoted by seniority so far as they are efficient. My opinion is, if there are officers in the force fit for promotion, they should certainly have precedence of others outside the force.

584. Do you think jealousy exists between the present divided forces? I think so, but I have never experienced it. I worked in a municipality for 12½ years, and never found any difficulty in obtaining assistance in the surrounding municipalities; but I believe such difficulties have arisen.

585. If you were called on to formulate a system of police government and discipline, would you advise a continuation of the present system? Most decidedly I would not.

586. Would you advise centralisation? I would.

587. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Have you ever served in the municipal police? I was in the Bothwell police 12½ years.

588. What was your objection then to the municipal police system? There is not that unity of action between the divided forces that there should be; they are disunited.

589. What objection do you take to the municipal police as a body? I think there cannot be efficiency under a dual system.

590. Will you explain why you think the Licensing Act would be better carried out under a centralised police? Because I believe many of the municipal police are afraid to do their duty.

591. From what cause? Local influences, I presume.

592. Did you ever find local influences at work to prevent you doing your duty? No, but I have heard constables say they cannot do their duty.

593. Were you ever interfered with? No, none of the councillors ever interfered with me in any way.

594. You are of opinion that promotion would be better carried out—that merit would be better rewarded—under territorial than municipal police? Yes, there would be a wider selection for the officers, whereas the municipal police are quite confined to their own district.

595. Have the promotions in the territorial force been satisfactory lately? I have been out of the force for two years, and cannot say whether they have been satisfactory or not.

596. What is the system of promotion now?—is there any rule for promotion? I do not know; I have nothing to do with it now.

597. What effect would it have if promotion was not carried out on a proper basis? What guarantee would there be if the police were centralised that any better system would obtain? It would depend on the head of the department. There ought to be proper rules laid down to guide promotion.

598. Are there no rules now as regards seniority? Not as regards seniority.

599. Is the department without rules? There are rules; but the option is for the head of the department to select the best men.

600. Do you think strangers should be made superintendents when we have superintendents in our midst of 40 years' standing? Certainly strangers should not be appointed if we have efficient men in our midst.

601. Then if a police superintendent is 40 years in the service, and is not considered efficient for promotion after that period of service, what would you say to the department that kept an inefficient man all that time? I would say his age should necessitate his retirement if he had served as superintendent for 40 years.

602. Should he not be sent about his business? I do not know what promotion a superintendent could get, unless he were made head of the department.

603. Is the pay alike in all the territorial districts? I think so, with the exception of the New Town and Queenborough and Selby districts.

604. Do you think the administration of the police force could be better in Hobart and Launceston if under the Government than they are now under the municipalities? My idea is that the police force should be undivided. They might be as satisfactory locally as they would be under a central head, but still I think they should be a united force and under the control of the Government.

605. *By the Chairman.*—Were you examined before the police committee in 1880? I was.

606. You then said that you unhesitatingly pronounced the dual system of police detrimental to the public interests, and subversive of that unity of action so indispensable and of paramount importance in the maintenance of a police force worthy of the name? That is my opinion still.

607. You said you did not think the expense of a united force need be much, if anything, greater than the present, unless by the necessary additions to enable the whole force to come under the operation of the provident fund; but that would be a judicious expenditure of public money, as by a present increase all liability on the funds of the state would be obviated, as retiring members would be provided for from the fund to be created by additional pay, and a sum to form a nucleus, that would no doubt be granted by Parliament for such purpose? I still hold those opinions.

608. That the superiority of a united force must be so apparent to every impartial person having a knowledge of police business that it seems to be a work of supererogation to enlarge upon it. Under efficient control and management it could not fail to reflect equal credit in Tasmania as her other valuable institutions? I am still of the same opinion.

609. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Have you ever known any instances where absence of co-operation between the two police bodies have resulted in failure of justice? I cannot remember any.

610. Or any instances where jealousy interfered with a proper performance of police duties? I have heard of them, but cannot speak personally of such.

611. If you have anything further will you furnish it in writing? I do not think I have anything to add.

MR. C. O. O'CONNOR, *called and examined.*

612. *By the Chairman.*—Where do you reside? I am a farmer and storekeeper at Tunnack.

613. Have you ever had experience of the police? I was a constable in the Irish Police, and clerk at headquarters where orders were issued for the men of the force.

614. For how many years? Seven years.

615. Have you had experience of the working of the police in this colony? Only by speaking with the police of their duty.

616. Do you approve of the present system of dual control of police in this colony? I do not.

617. Do you think it would be better to have the police force centralised? I do.

618. Do you think under the present divided system of police that constables can do their duty independently? I believe they cannot.

619. Have you any reason to believe that? I think in the first instance they are not appointed as they should have been in order to give them independence in the discharge of their duties. A constable should never be made to serve in the place where he is appointed. Municipal police are appointed by the councillors, and they should not be expected to do their duty between those who appoint them and their friends. I am aware of some cases which I will bring under your notice. In an adjoining municipality I have known a council clerk whose father, two uncles, and father-in-law were councillors. They amalgamated the offices of council clerk and superintendent of police, to which he was appointed. He left the district to better himself, and the offices were then again divided. The officer discharged when these offices were amalgamated was an old intelligent officer, the young man appointed by his friends had no experience, and was consequently unfit for the position.

620. Do you approve of the amalgamation of those offices? I do not.

Police.

621. Would the provisions of the Licensing Act be better ensured if the police were not subject to local influences? Yes, much better.

622. Have you in your experience ever known the police not do their duty with regard to the Licensing Act? I will give a case in point that occurred in Tunnack very recently. There was a nuisance carried on for over 12 years, and I reported it to the warden. Immediately I reported it the cause of the nuisance was removed, but it must have been existing all the time with the knowledge of the police. I allude to the case of a man who used to drink continually, and sell his clothes, going about nearly naked. I am sure it was with the knowledge of the warden and police, but no notice was taken of it until I gave notice, and then the warden ordered that no drink should be served to him in the neighbourhood.

623. Is there a public-house in your neighbourhood? Yes.

624. Is it visited by the police? Yes, frequently.

625. Is it orderly? I think so.

626. Is it desirable to have a detective force in this Colony? I think it is very essential.

627. Could such a force be properly constituted with a divided force? It could not. I am very much in favour of municipal action, but municipalities should not have charge of the police. The police are placed in a wrong position. A policeman should never be allowed to serve in the district he is appointed in, and every man in the force should have six months' teaching and drilling at head quarters before going out to do his duty. Police are asked to obtain information for the councillors to assess property. They are by no means competent to assess property, and the poor man who has settled on the crown land has his assessment yearly increased, whereas that of the councillors', who are large property holders, is never altered. All this information comes from the police, who are quite incompetent to give it.

628. You mean the police are employed in assessing property? Yes, I believe they assess all property. I am a large property holder and do not complain, but I complain of the way others are assessed. Small holders are rated to their full value of improvements, whilst the assessments of the councillors are not altered.

629. If the police were centralised do you think life and property would be better protected? I do; I believe they would be more secure.

630. Do you think sheep and cattle-stealing would be more easily detected? I do.

631. Would you recommend the removal of constables from one district to another? Not unless there was something against the constable. A policeman who is known in a district would have greater power for good than one who is not known, but you should never allow a man to serve in a district where he has relatives and friends.

632. Would the police have more reliance of support in the execution of their duty under a centralised system? Yes, because they would have more independence.

633. Do you think concerted action could be more easily effected under a centralised system? Yes. The entrance into one district from another without communicating with the police of the district is not a good system, and should not be done without giving information to the head of the police of the district. I know of an important case of sheep-stealing which occurred in my district. The police from Jerusalem rushed in and arrested a man whilst the Oatlands police were waiting for the case to develop. If the Oatlands police had not been interfered with, they would have got up the case, but the Jerusalem police spoiled it. It would be proper discipline to report such a matter to the police of the district in which the case occurred, and let combined action take place.

634. *By Mr. Braddon.*—There was a failure, owing to the want of co-operation on the part of the two bodies? Yes. They failed because they did not co-operate; if they had, there is not the slightest doubt conviction would have ensued.

635. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think the general welfare might be defeated under a system which places the police at the caprice of independent local bodies? I do.

636. If the police were centralised do you think the present number of superintendents would be required? I think not, under proper management. A competent man is required for the head of the police force, and I think a better man could not be obtained than a military man. Sir Charles M'Mahon put the Victorian police on a grand footing, and the Queensland force has been placed into excellent condition by an officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary. I do not think anyone should be at the head of the police force unless he is a military man, or a man specially trained to police duties.

637. Do you think jealousy exists between the present divided forces? I certainly do.

638. Have you any experience of evils arising from such jealousy? I cannot state a particular case.

639. Do you know anything of the New South Wales police? Not personally, but I believe they are not so good as the police of the other colonies.

640. Are they centralised? Yes, I believe so.

641. Do you know anything of the police of Victoria? Yes, I have friends there, and was offered employment in the force, but I declined because I had left a better force through ill health.

642. Is it a good force? Yes, really an excellent police force. With regard to the police there is a very bad system. One of the councillors caused an order to be issued to the police that they were to take a diary, go to the various places in the district, have it signed by the settlers with the date of which the police visited it, and lay it before the Council on a given day. That is a bad plan. The police should visit these places when the people know nothing about it. It is perfectly useless for the police to go to such places when it is known. They should get private instructions to visit places by day or night if necessary.

643. *By Mr Braddon.*—Have you known any instance in which constables were afraid of discharging their duties because of the influence of the warden? I cannot say so from personal knowledge.

644. Would not the amalgamation of the police force afford greater facilities for promotion? It would; and promotion would be fairer if the police were amalgamated under an independent head. Length of service and good conduct should be taken into consideration, and men without experience should not be promoted over the heads of older officers if the latter were efficient.

645. Would the amalgamation of the force be an advantage inasmuch as it would enable the whole force, under one head, to be drilled and exercised as a defence force? Decidedly so. No policeman should be sent to an out-station without having five or six months' drilling and instruction in his duties.

646. *By the Chairman.*—If you have anything further will you furnish it in writing? I will.

MR. ROBERT ARMSTRONG, *called and examined.*

647. *By the Chairman.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of Police at Selby.

648. How long have you held this office? I have been superintendent since 1879.

649. How long have you been in the police? Nearly 26 years in the Tasmanian police.

650. Have you been in the municipal police? No, only territorial.

651. Have you been in the police of any other colony? No; but I was a constable in the Irish Constabulary five and a half years.

652. Have you had experience of the working of our territorial and municipal police? Yes, I have.

653. Do you approve of the present divided system? I do not.

654. Do you think it would be better if our police force were centralised? I do.

655. Have you any reason to believe that the municipal police cannot do their duty independently? I have, from experience; I have heard it from the men also. I was summoning officer to the Hobart Court, and had frequent opportunities of conversing with policemen attending the court. They have told me, over and over again, that they were afraid to do their duty for fear of losing their positions. They said what they would have to do to-day they would have to shut their eyes to to-morrow. These were generally from the southern districts.

656. Have you had similar experience in the north? I have not the same opportunity now, and have not been three years there. From what I have seen in Launceston I believe there is nothing to prevent a man doing his duty. I have never seen or heard anything of the sort there. I believe the men are free and independent, and supported by their superintendent; but I fear that is the exception, not the rule.

657. Do you believe the provisions of the Licensing Act would be better ensured if the police were not subjected to local influences? I do. I think if the police were centralised they would be more free and independent.

658. Do you think a detective police force desirable? I do not see how it could be worked here. There are only two centres of population, and those are both provided for in that respect.

659. To have a proper detective police, do you think the police should be centralised? I do. It could not be otherwise.

660. Under the present divided system, do you think it could be? I do not see how they could act.

661. If the police were centralised do you think life and property would be better protected? I do.

662. Would not sheep and cattle-stealing be more easily detected? I think so.

663. Do you think under a centralised system the police would have more reliance and support in the execution of their duty? I do.

664. Would not centralisation tend to increase subordination and concerted action? I believe so.

665. Do you think the present divided system tends to prevent united or concerted action? I certainly think so.

666. Do you believe the general welfare may be defeated under a system which places the police at the caprice of independent local bodies? I do.

667. If the police were centralised do you think the present number of superintendents would be necessary? I think not.

668. Could a saving be effected in this direction? I think so. I do not see what superintendents are required for in some of the small districts. Two or sometimes three, if not four, of the municipalities might be put into one district and worked by one superintendent.

669. By centralisation of police do you think greater efficiency would be effected? I do; the men would act more in concert and more together than they do now under the present system.

670. Do you consider that the difficulties experienced in the existing police force may be attributed to the want of unity and lack of central control? I do.

671. Do you think a mounted police would be desirable? I can hardly give an opinion on that; I cannot see how they would act. Certainly in some of the outlying districts mounted men might be very convenient to carry out quick despatches, but the telegraph wire is so general throughout the Colony that I do not know if mounted police would be of much service.

672. Do you think the police should be attached to the defence force? If rifle clubs were established throughout the country they might be, but the police in the country districts would be entirely useless as a defence force, they being so far from the centres of population. In the centres of population I think the police could act as a defence force.

673. Would centralisation induce a better class of men to join the force? I think so, because there would be inducement and prospect of promotion, which at the present time do not exist.

674. Do you think a better system of promotion could be adopted than now exists? I think a better system would be obtained by centralisation.

675. In case of riot or emergency do you think the general welfare of the country would be better obtained by centralisation? I do.

676. Do you believe any jealousy exists between the present divided forces? I know in some places it does.

677. Do you know of any instance in which that jealousy has prevented crime being detected? I can hardly point to any particular case. I know that in tracing criminals or obtaining information a certain routine is expected from one superintendent to another which I think could be avoided by centralisation. An officer would be more free to go into another district—and act at once—than he can do at present.

678. If you were called on to formulate a system of police would you advise a continuation of the present system in this Colony? I certainly would not.

679. Would you recommend centralisation? I would. I think it is a most decided mistake to have it otherwise.

680. Would centralisation materially increase the cost to the Colony? I should not think so, because some of the officers could be done away with, and if there were more men the reduction of officers would go against the cost of the increased number of men.

681. After 25½ years' experience are you decidedly opposed to the present system of our police? I am. I think for the welfare of the men they should be centralised. A man cannot join the force now with that hope of speedy promotion that he could safely expect in a centralised police. I know also that in various municipalities there is a lot of local influence brought to bear in regard to the Licensing Act.

682. *By Mr. Barrett.*—More than in rural districts? Yes, I think so.
683. Do you insist on carrying out all the clauses of the Licensing Act in your district? I do not. I do not think any publican could exist if the law was carried out.
684. What do you mean by saying that centralisation would improve the carrying out of the Act? I believe that many cases would be brought up if the police were centralised that are not now brought up. In the municipalities there is a lot of local influence which prevent many cases being brought up that should be.
685. Is that done now in territorial districts? I do it.
686. Do the public-houses in your district close at 10? I think so, and I always proceed against publicans for Sunday trading. I believe the law is broken, but in all cases that come under my notice I take action.
687. Do you think the Licensing law is administered any better in Selby than in Launceston? I believe the law is carried out in Launceston; there the men are supported, I believe, without fear or affection.
688. Suppose municipal institutions were generally instituted and all districts were made municipalities, do you think then that centralisation of the police would tend to better administration of the law and bringing criminals to justice? I do. I say let all districts be municipalities and have the management of their own affairs, but decidedly let the Government have charge of the police.
689. Would the Hobart and Launceston Police be better under a central head than they are under the municipal bodies? I would say as to Launceston, I believe as far as Launceston is concerned the police are nearly as good as they could be, but I would not say the same of Hobart. I had 10 years' experience in Hobart, and saw some gross cases.
690. To what do you attribute the success of the Launceston police? They have a good independent man who carries out his duties.
691. If you had the same men, would not the result be the same in all districts? You will have difficulty in getting such men.
692. *By Mr. Braddon.*—Is it possible, in police districts, for magistrates to exercise the same influence on the police as they do in municipal districts? Decidedly not. I have refused to obey any order from the stipendiary magistrate. I would obey him in an official way, but to receive orders from him I distinctly refused.
693. The magistrates have no power to give orders? They have no power at all over the police if the superintendents have the manliness to refuse their orders should they give any. I once told a stipendiary magistrate I was free and independent of him, and I have always acted so.
694. What sort of a body is the Irish Constabulary? A very fine body of men.
695. Is there any better body in the world? No; they are the finest body of men in the whole world.
696. *By the Chairman.*—Has the policeman stationed at Hadspen any right to come into the district of Carrick? No. The matter has been brought under my notice. I told him whenever a case in the Westbury district required immediate action he should act, but if he could do so, to inform the Superintendent of the Westbury police first; also to act under the Superintendent of Westbury if asked to do so.
697. If a robbery were committed in Hadspen, and the thief crossed the bridge at Entally, would the constable follow him? My instructions are to follow him and immediately report the case. It would not matter with Mr. Mahoney, as he would always act with other police, but, to prevent disputes, I instructed my man to report the case.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1886.

MR. G. A. KEMP, *called and examined.*

698. *By the Chairman.*—What position do you occupy? Acting Police Magistrate at Launceston.
699. How many years have you been a magistrate? 51 years in Tasmania and New South Wales, and 41 years in Tasmania.
700. Have you ever held the position of Warden? I was Warden at Green Ponds for 10 years.
701. You have had experience of both our police systems? Yes.
702. Very long experience of the territorial system? Yes.
703. Do you approve of the present dual system? No, I certainly do not.
704. Do you think it would be better if the police force of the colony were centralised? Yes, I do decidedly think so.
705. Do you approve of the amalgamation of the offices of council clerk and superintendent of police? I do not. Circumstances might arise where it might be desirable, but as a rule the amalgamation is not wise.
706. Have you any reason to believe that the municipal police cannot do their duty independently from their having too many masters? I think it is scarcely possible in some of the districts for the police to do their duty without prejudice.
707. If the police were centralised would it affect the municipal authorities in matters not connected with the police? I think not.
708. Would the provisions of the Licensing Act be better ensured if the police were not subject to local influences? I think so.
709. Do you consider a proper detective police system of the colony desirable? Yes, I do most decidedly think so.
710. Could such a system be properly constituted under the existing divided authority? It would be utterly impossible.
711. To have a detective force, you consider there should be one head for the whole of the police? Yes, I have always believed in one head of the police.
712. Is not the tendency in all the Australian colonies to centralise the police? I know they were centralised in New South Wales when I was there.
713. Do the Executives in New South Wales and Victoria retain authority over the police? Yes.
714. Is Tasmania singular in its dual system? New South Wales may have altered since, but I am not aware of it.

715. Under an united system of police, would there be greater protection of life and property? I think so.

716. Do you think sheep and cattle stealers would be more easily detected? Yes; because I know municipal constables have a disinclination to leave their districts; but I always impressed on my men that they were constables for the whole colony, and should follow felons wherever they went in the colony.

717. Under centralisation of police, would there be greater facilities for removing constables? Yes; I look on that as a very great principle in favour of centralisation. I regard it as a very necessary thing to have power to remove constables, for they are very apt to become too familiar with those over whom they have power.

718. Would the police have greater reliance of support in doing their duty if they were centralised? Decidedly they would.

719. Would centralisation tend to increase subordination and concerted action? Yes, decidedly.

720. Do you believe the present divided systems tend to prevent concerted action? I think it does in some cases. It is almost impossible now to have concerted action, for the police in different districts get different pay and are differently provided for, so that jealousy renders concerted action impossible.

721. Do you think the general welfare may be defeated under a system which places the police at the caprice of independent local bodies? I think it would be a decided improvement to remove the control of the police from the local bodies and place them under a central control.

722. If the police were centralised would the present number of superintendents be required? I think a good efficient man might be superintendent of two or three districts, under whom there might be superintendents of lower grade. The chief superintendent would visit the districts regularly and see that the police did their duty.

723. Would a saving be effected in the police expenditure? I do not know that much saving would be effected. The head superintendent must be a good man and well paid, and there must be good men as local superintendents.

724. Do you think a system could be devised for giving the Government absolute control over the police? Certainly.

725. Without depriving the wardens of the municipal districts of any due authority? I have always been of opinion that the wardens should have nothing to do with the police. I expressed that opinion to Sir Francis Smith when the system was first introduced. I said, "You have made a great mistake."

726. From your experience do you think superintendents and constables are deterred from doing their duty from fear of offending municipal authorities? I decidedly think so.

727. Do you believe that the difficulties in the present Tasmanian police force arise from too extensive sub division, want of unity, and lack of central control? I do not think an efficient police force can exist without unity under one head; divided, I think they cease to be efficient.

728. You think the control should be under the Executive? Yes, decidedly.

729. Is it sufficient for the Executive to have power only to advise? No.

730. If the police were under the control of the Executive, and rules for their guidance and discipline were made by the Governor in Council, do you think there would be any fear of a return to the arbitrary and tyrannical state of things said to exist under the old Imperial system? Certainly not—times have altered. There would be no chance of such a condition of things existing again. I should look upon it as impossible under responsible government and the supervision there is now.

731. Do you not think much time would be saved in pursuing criminals, and greater efficiency obtained, if the police were united under one head? Certainly I do.

732. Do you think it advisable to have mounted police in the rural districts? I have great doubts about it. This country is so different from New South Wales and other colonies where they have mounted police.

733. Do you think the police could be attached to the defence force of the colony? I think they should be a separate body.

734. Would it not be an advantage to attach them? I think the military is always subservient to the civil power. You might have the officers of the volunteer forces clashing with the police in some cases. I think it would be undesirable to join the two forces.

735. Do you think the police should be drilled? I certainly think it would be conducive to their efficiency, but they should be centralised.

736. Would centralisation induce a superior class of men to join the force? I think it would. I do not think at present a proper system of promotion is going on; it cannot go on in municipalities.

737. Do you believe that under centralisation a better system of promotion would be adopted? Yes, certainly.

738. In cases of riot or emergency would greater efficiency be obtained if the forces were united under one head? Yes, that is what I have always contended. Suppose one of our large mines failed or stopped, and the large number of men thus thrown out of work turned riotous, how could you under the present municipal police system concentrate your forces in sufficient time to keep these men in order?

739. Do you believe any jealousy exists between the two forces? I have heard expressions of jealousy occasionally.

740. You have considerable knowledge of the police of Launceston? No, very little. I have only been there five months.

741. Have you any authority over them? Not the slightest.

742. Do you think the fact of your having no authority over the police is any hindrance to you? I have not found it so hitherto, but I would hesitate in giving orders to a constable which I would otherwise do if I had any control of the police. If I saw anything wrong I would communicate with the superintendent.

743. Are you decidedly in favour of the control of the police being placed under the Executive? Most decidedly.

744. If called upon to formulate a system of police government would you advise a continuance of the present system? No.

745. Would you advise centralisation? Yes, under one head.

746. You have publicly drawn attention to the necessity of centralisation, have you not? I did so at Brighton, in 1878.

747. You said then that you had always felt it was a grave and serious error in the body politic that the control of the police force should be allowed to fall into the hands of the municipalities: do you hold that opinion still? Yes, I do.

748. You also said it was not wise that the municipalities should have the control of the police, or that the latter should have to look to them for promotion or dismissal: do you still think so? Yes.

749. You further said, "There was at present an irregularity in the administration of justice, which could only be cause for regret to all right-thinking men. For instance, in some municipalities offences of a venal nature, such as intoxication, were treated in utterly different ways. Some magistrates inflicted a fine of 5s., others one of 10s., those who inflicted the former fine being utterly oblivious of the fact that the new law rendered the latter fine imperative. Then there was another crime, that of using obscene and disgusting language—a most reprehensible and abominable offence, particularly when used in the presence of females of education and ladylike instincts. In some places these offenders were let off with a long lecture on the enormity of the offence, and in the very next municipality they are fined £1 1s. Then there were cases of assault—gross and brutal when made on a fellow man, but much more revolting when made on weak unoffending women. Yet such offenders were let off by payment of 5s., 10s., or £1 fine. At present the police had too many masters. Could they doubt policemen would look with lenient eyes on the councillor's friends, or with severe eyes on those he might presume to be his enemies."—Are those still your sentiments? Yes; but since then the magistrates have, I believe, become acquainted with their duties.

750. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—You think the municipalities have improved? I think they have treated these offences more justly than before. When the municipalities were first established everyone elected a councillor was thought to be eligible as a magistrate. They have altered that system since, and do not consider it necessary to make every councillor a magistrate.

751. Have you any knowledge of the system of promotion of the territorial police at present existing? No.

752. Are you in a position to compare the merits of the two forces as they exist at present? No. In Launceston they have a fine body of men.

753. Do you think centralisation would improve them? I think the magistrate ought to have some control of the police. Now the superintendent of police is perfectly independent of him, and I do not think he should be perfectly independent of the police magistrate.

754. Would not the same apply to the wardens? I look upon wardens, generally speaking, as very different from police magistrates. There are some wardens who are quite fit to be police magistrates, but they are not as a rule. Wardens and local magistrates should have nothing whatever to do with the police.

755. *By the Chairman.*—From what you know of the territorial police, do you think them to be an effective body? I do, from what I have seen of them.

756. Do you think the Inspector of Police under a centralised system, should be a military man? I do not think it is necessary.

757. Should he be a man who has had experience of police? Yes, decidedly, he should have experience of police government.

758. If you have any suggestions to make will you furnish them in writing?

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1886.

MR. HENRY DOUGLAS, *examined.*

759. *By the Chairman.*—You are Stipendiary Magistrate at Latrobe? Yes.

760. How long have you held that position? About five years.

761. You have also been Warden of Deloraine? Yes. Previous to my appointment at Latrobe I was Warden of Deloraine for 14 years.

762. How long have you been a magistrate? I think about 30 years.

763. You have had experience, then, of the working of our police system under the territorial and municipal control? I have.

764. Do you approve of the present dual system of police? I do not.

765. Do you think it would be a better arrangement if the police were centralised? I do, if the present Inspector of Police were appointed Commissioner of Police, and he had two inspectors under him, for this reason: I think it is an office that should not be a political office, and if you had two inspectors under the Commissioner, one of these should be fit to take the Commissioner's place in case of his death or removal.

766. Would you recommend a Commissioner, then, instead of an Inspector-General? Yes; and that there should be two inspectors of police under the Commissioner.

767. Under these circumstances, do you think that the Chief Secretary should not be the head? No, I think not. I think it should be something like the Auditor's department—non-political entirely.

768. Do you approve of the amalgamation of the offices of council clerk and superintendent of police? Certainly not.

769. From your experience, have you reason to believe that the municipal police cannot act so as to do their duty independently? I think not. I think you will find, throughout the municipal districts of the colony very few informations laid against publicans, in consequence of the influence of the publicans over the police, or the influence of the publicans' friends.

770. Then you think the provisions of the Licensing Act would be better ensured if the police were not subject to local influences? I do.

771. If the police force were centralised would it affect the action of municipal authorities in matters not connected with the police? I do not think it would, except with regard to Hobart and Launceston: I think they should remain as they are. I would not include Hobart and Launceston in the centralising of the police. Both those towns are so well managed that I do not think it is necessary there should be any change with regard to them.

772. Then it is only the rural police and those under the territorial system that you would desire to have centralised? Yes.

773. Do you consider a proper detective police system desirable in this country? That is rather a difficult question. In some cases I certainly think it would be, but in others I do not. There are many large sheepowners having 10,000 sheep at one station and 10,000 at another, with only one shepherd at each place. I do not think in such a case the country should afford them special protection from plunderers; they should look after their own sheep. It is very seldom that the police detect a sheep-stealer; it is generally the shepherds who give the information to the police or owners.

774. But would not a detective police be useful in following up information given by the shepherds? If you could get a proper detective force it would.

775. Do you think a good detective system could be constituted under existing arrangements—that is, with a divided force? I do not think so.

776. To have a proper detective police, you think the force should be under one head? Yes. If it were under a divided authority as now, the superintendents of police in the rural districts would want to know what such a man was doing in his district.

777. So you do not think it could be constituted under the present system? No, not satisfactorily.

778. Is not the tendency in all the Australian Colonies to centralise the police? I believe so. I do not think it is so in England, but it is in Ireland, and I think it is in the other colonies.

779. Does not the Executive, in all the Australian colonies, retain authority over the police? I believe so, but I am not positive.

780. Is not Tasmania singular in its divided system of authority? I believe so, but I cannot say positively.

781. Under the centralised police, would not greater facilities be given for the protection of life and property? I should think so, but I cannot express a decided opinion on the point.

782. Greater facilities could be obtained under centralisation for the removal of constables from one district to another? Yes, and I think that is very necessary.

783. Do you not think the police would have far more reliance, under centralisation, of being supported in the execution of their duty? I decidedly think so.

784. Then, centralisation would tend to increase subordination and concerted action? I think so.

785. *By Mr. Barrett.*—You are always exempting the two municipalities of Hobart and Launceston? Yes.

786. *By the Chairman.*—You believe the present system, generally, prevents concerted action? I do.

787. Do you believe that the general welfare is defeated under a system which places the police at the caprice of independent local bodies? I could not say it is defeated, but I think it would be much better under the General Government.—In some cases I know it has been defeated. I could give you an instance in one case at Deloraine, during the time I was warden there. Mr. Griffin, through his influence in the district, was appointed superintendent of police, and he was supported by a majority of the council against my wishes as warden. I opposed it as strongly as I possibly could, as I knew he was a drunkard, and in many other ways quite unfit. He had never been in the police before, and was quite unfit, as he knew nothing about the duties; but he was placed there by the majority, and the consequence was, that in a very short time he was found to be a frightful drunkard, and had to be removed.

788. If the police were united, do you think the present number of superintendents would be required—there are 19 municipal and 13 territorial superintendents? I think there should be a different arrangement, but I cannot point out in what way, because I have not given that subject sufficient consideration. I think the magistrates throughout the island should have some control.

789. But that is not an answer to the question I put? I do not think that number would be required provided there were two Inspectors of Police.

790. Then you think a saving might be effected in this direction? I do not think a saving might be effected, because I do not think it would be wise to have the two Inspectors underpaid. I think every man should be thoroughly well paid to make them effective, and to place them above suspicion.

791. Then you think the matter of expense should not be a consideration in making the force effective? I do not, certainly.

792. Do you think a system could be devised giving the Executive absolute control of the whole of the police, including the two cities? Of course I have great confidence in the Executive; but, at the same time I think it should be like the Audit Department, and the whole responsibility should rest upon the Commissioner, and he should be responsible to Parliament.

793. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—And the towns of Hobart and Launceston would, of course, come under the Commissioner's jurisdiction? Well, I should not like to enforce it with regard to the two towns, because I have noticed they have from the very first been so well managed that it would not be desirable to have any change in regard to them. I have never heard any complaints of the force in the two towns.

794. *By the Chairman.*—Then do you think it would be desirable to have the police of Hobart and Launceston entirely independent of the Executive control? If it could be managed, I should say so; but I cannot devise any scheme.

795. Do you think the wardens should have control over the police in their districts? Not altogether. I think there should be some system by which the wardens and magistrates should have a certain power over the police.

796. Can you state to what extent? I should have liked before answering that question to have had a conversation with Dr. Young, who has had a great deal to do with that sort of thing in India, where the magistrates have authority over the police.

797. You will have an opportunity of correcting your evidence and making any additions you like. Have the police magistrates at Hobart and Launceston authority over the police? I think not.

798. Do you think it is desirable they should? I think the system in the two towns is so good that it does not need change.

799. Do you think the municipal police are more effective than the territorial, in your experience? I think that all new constables should be sent to a dépôt to be instructed in their duties before they are appointed to any particular district.

800. In whom do you think the appointment of the police should be? In the Commissioner.

801. Not in the local authorities? No.

802. Do you think the superintendents and constables in municipal and territorial districts are deterred from doing their duty for fear of offending the local authorities? In some cases they certainly are.

803. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Do you then think it would be better to transfer the authority to a central head—that magistrates should not have power to interfere? I do not think magistrates should have power to interfere, but they ought to have some little control. I am not prepared to say in what way; but I can give an instance that occurred very recently with the sub-inspector of police at Latrobe. During my brother's term of office as Premier this man was so fulsome in his attention to me that it was unbearable; but immediately the late Premier left his conduct changed, so much so that I almost felt I would have to resign. I spoke to him upon one occasion of a man brought before me for drunkenness, and asked him how, after the case had been disposed of, the man was out on bail. He

said, "I admitted him myself to bail; but you have no right to ask me such a question—you should have asked my superior officer." This officer lived five miles away, and the man behaved in an impudent manner. The consequence was the man admitted to bail had not been out of gaol four or five hours before he was in again for the same offence. Such was the behaviour of this man towards me for some time. I wrote to the Inspector of Police about it, and the man was removed to Hobart. After he was removed, for 14 days my house was boycotted by his son, who continually threw stones at the house. Night after night as soon as we had sat down quietly the house was pelted with stones. One went through the window of my granddaughter's room, and very nearly struck her. The constables behaved very properly, and after watching the house for a long time they secured this youth in the very act. I heard since that he had received a Government appointment, and I wrote to Mr. Shaw on the subject, and in reply he told me he was not aware of it, and I believe it was not the case.

804. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Did this occur under territorial management? Yes.

805. Do you think such an occurrence could take place under municipal management? Well, it could certainly.

806. But it would not be likely? Well, I would not say that, but in my experience of 50 years in this colony such a thing has never happened before. I think it is an unheard-of experience that an old magistrate should be subjected to such annoyance.

807. *By the Chairman.*—Do you not know of cases in municipal districts where annoyance has been given to respectable inhabitants by the sons and relatives of councillors? I do not recollect any such case at the present time.

808. Have you ever heard of such cases? I do not recollect.

809. Do you believe that the defect in the present police force of Tasmania is in consequence of its extensive subdivision, want of unity, and lack of central control? I think the police force would be under a much better system if conducted in the way I have suggested, with a Commissioner and two Inspectors. I think the latter a very important part of the suggestion, as there would always be an officer to take the place of the Commissioner in case of his death or removal.

810. Do you think it is sufficient power for the Executive to have only the power of advising the Commissioner? I think his office should be a responsible one, like that held by Captain Standish in Victoria, who has sole control, I believe.

811. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Do you not think that the dual system you recommend—preserving the local authority at Hobart and Launceston, and creating a central authority for the rest of the island—would not be more difficult to manage than a system by which the Commissioner should take charge of the whole colony, including the two towns? I think it would be better if the Commissioner had sole charge; but, as I have said before, it would be very hard to interfere with what is managed so well.

812. But you are aware that in Victoria and New South Wales, where a central authority has been created, the entire charge rests with him? I think so, and in New Zealand too.

813. So far as you know, that system works well? Very well indeed. I know more about Victoria than New South Wales, and believe it has been conducted very well indeed there, with the exception of the case of those bush-rangers about four years ago.

814. *By the Chairman.*—If the police were centralised, and rules for their guidance and discipline were issued by the Governor in Council, do you think there would be any fear of a return to the arbitrary and tyrannical system which is said to have existed under the old Imperial system? I do not think so. I do not think such a system could ever exist in these times. In the former days the police were chiefly composed of prisoners of the crown.

815. Then you do not think a return to that arbitrary system is possible? It is not possible in these times.

816. Do you think a mounted police in the country districts desirable? Well, I think every constable in the country districts should be mounted. He is equal to two or three men if he is mounted.

817. But I refer to a body of organised mounted troopers? No, I do not think that is necessary; but all country police should be mounted and have an allowance for forage.

818. How much horse forage should be allowed? I do not think the present scale of £25 and £12 10s. is sufficient. It is not only to feed a horse, but to keep him and look after him.

819. Do you think the police could be attached to the defence force of the Colony? I think so, if there was a dépôt to train them before they are sent upon active duty.

820. And if the police were used in that way, do you not think it would be an advantage to have them attached to the defence force? I think it decidedly would.

821. Would it not induce a superior class of men to join the force? I think so. Another thing: I think in centralising the police there should be a fund to pension the men during sickness, or when too old to discharge their duties.

822. In case of riot or emergency, such as the Chiniquy riot at Hobart, or the railway riot at Launceston, do you not think a centralised police would be a very great advantage? I think so.

823. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Don't you, then, see the advantage that would accrue from the towns of Hobart and Launceston being under the same central authority—that is, the rapid movement of a body of police through the country to any part? I think in case of a riot or any great emergency the whole of the police of the Island should be under the commissioner,—that he should be able to call them out in case of emergency.

824. *By the Chairman.*—In case of riot or any emergency you do not think the head of the police should have to obtain the consent of the mayors or wardens before he could use the whole force? No, he should then have full power.

825. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Do you think if the police in Launceston had been under a commissioner that they would have acted any better, or worked more effectively, for the suppression of the riot than they did under the municipal system?—could anything more have been done by a commissioner of a centralised body than was done by the municipal police of Launceston during those riots? No, I do not think there could. I think even during that time that the Executive unduly interfered in the matter. I was Warden of Deloraine at that time, and all cases for the recovery of rates were ordered to be taken before Mr. Mason, at Launceston, although I was quite prepared to do my duty. I even wrote to the Attorney-General at the time, expressing my annoyance at all cases being sent to Launceston when I, as warden, was prepared to do my duty and support the Government.

826. And that you were prepared to employ the police to enforce the law? Yes.

827. But did all wardens of Municipal Councils do the same? I cannot speak for the others.

828. Under centralisation do you not think a better system of promotion could be adopted than now exists? Yes, I do; and I would have promotion to go by merit.

829. Do you think a military man should be the head of the police, or commissioner? No, I do not think so. A military man might possibly be the most unfit man. In fact, I know of many military men who have applied for appointments in the police who would be very unfit. A colonel once applied to be Superintendent at Deloraine, but he would have been a most unfit man.

830. Do you not think the head, or commissioner, should have had experience of police discipline? Yes, of police discipline. That is why I recommend there should be two inspectors trained to take his place. I do not care to say much about the former head, which was a political appointment; but every man in the colony will know that it was not a proper appointment.

831. Do you believe, Mr. Douglas, that jealousy exists between the municipal and territorial police? I have not had sufficient experience of the bodies working together. I know some time ago there was a strong feeling in Launceston, and I was entirely in accord with the Superintendent of the Launceston police, Mr. Coulter.

832. That was when the head of the police in Victoria declined to communicate with Mr. Coulter except through the Inspector of Police for Tasmania? Yes. It was at the instigation of Mr. Swan, who requested the head of the police in Victoria to communicate with Tasmania through him on police matters. There was another case, when the Bank of Tasmania was robbed at Beaconsfield, and some mismanagement arose between the two bodies.

833. There was a certain amount of jealousy? Yes, a certain amount of jealousy.

834. Do you think that justice was defeated in consequence? Yes, I think in that case it was.

835. Do you think the inspectors of police in the other colonies should be bound to communicate with the heads of the municipal police in Tasmania? I would not go so far as that. I think in cases of emergency, where delay would be of consequence, they should communicate direct with the nearest party, so that action could be taken immediately.

836. Are you aware that the inspectors or heads of the police in the other colonies object to communicate with anyone except the head of the Police Department in this colony? I am not. They may now, but I do not think they did at that time. They may object now, since Mr. Swan requested them not to communicate except through him.

837. Would it not be the rule? It was not the rule, because they communicated with Mr. Coulter.

838. If called upon, Mr. Douglas, to formulate a system of police government, would you advise a continuance of the present divided system? No.

839. You would advise centralisation? Yes.

840. *By Mr. Barrett.*—That does not apply to the two cities? No.

841. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Your last answer to the Chairman is under the terms of your evidence? Yes.

842. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Do you see any difficulty to prevent the present good system at Hobart and Launceston being maintained even if they were included under the central authority? There might be. There might be jealousy between the mayors and the commissioner.

843. But if the control were taken out of the hands of the mayors and vested in some central authority, have you any reason to believe that the present efficient system would not be maintained? There is no reason why it should not be maintained, because what would apply to the country would apply to the towns.

844. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think the police can do their duty fearlessly where they have many masters, and those masters are constantly being changed? No, I do not think they can do it—not in the country; but in the towns there are so many people looking after the mayors that they act very differently to the wardens in the country districts. The mayors have so many eyes upon them, and there is a better selection of men for the appointment of mayors than there is in the country for the appointment of wardens.

845. *By Mr. Barrett.*—Don't you think, Mr. Douglas, that if a better educated class of superintendents were engaged by the municipal council of rural districts that there would be less occasion for the attention of the police force of the island?—Supposing you obtained superintendents of the same efficiency and the same knowledge as Superintendent Coulter of the Launceston police, don't you think the present system of municipal police would not require altering at all? The pay of the present superintendents is so small that you could not get a higher class of men than you have at present.

846. You stated a little while ago that the appointment of policemen should rest with the commissioner: do you exempt the two towns in that? Yes.

847. And in your answers throughout you except the municipalities of Hobart and Launceston? Yes.

848. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Do you think any system of police would be satisfactory if there was no other local control than that given to the district constable under the centralised system? I think there should be some local control, because at the present time the superintendents have more power in their hands than all the magistrates put together.

849. *By Mr. Barrett.*—That is, in rural districts? Yes. There should be some controlling power left in the hands of the magistrates, but not sufficient to allow them to exercise all jurisdiction in a case.

850. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Do you think there could be a better system of sub-inspection by a higher class of officers? Yes; but the superintendents and sub-inspectors should be much better paid, and should be a better class of men than we have here. It is the pay that makes the difficulty. You cannot get the men we require for the pay we give.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1886.

MR. HENRY LAMB, *examined.*

851. *By the Chairman.*—You are Warden of Clarence? Yes.

852. How long have you held that position? Nearly ten years.

853. You have had experience of the working of our police system under the territorial and municipal management? Not under territorial—under municipal.

854. Do you approve of the present divided system of police? I do not.

855. Then you think the centralisation of the police would be a better system? Either under one form or the other. Either centralise them, or put them under municipal control altogether. I believe municipal control entirely would be better, and every district should be compelled to take up municipal action.

Police.

856. You think the country should be divided into municipalities and each municipality should have control of its own police? Yes.

857. Do you think the police system under these circumstances would be more economical than at present, or under a centralised system? I believe it would.

858. From your experience of the municipal police do you think constables are able to do their duty independently. I think so; at any rate, speaking for my own district, I have always found it so; and I have not heard any complaints from the surrounding districts. I cannot say generally it is the case.

859. Do you not think that under the municipal system the police have too many masters? I have never found it so. I have never found the Councils interfere with the work of the police.

860. Have you not heard that such is considered to be the case? I have heard it repeatedly said that such is the case.

861. Do you think the carrying out of the provisions of the Licensing Act could be better ensured if the police were not subject to local influences? No.

862. From your experience, do you think the police do their duty in enforcing the provisions of the Licensing Act? Generally speaking, I have found it so. Of course my experience is not very wide, only having been obtained in travelling through the country; but I have generally found it so.

863. Have you never found that the police have allowed the Licensing Act to be broken, because they were afraid of the consequences of interfering? No; I have found the Licensing Act repeatedly broken, but not from that cause.

864. Do you attribute it, then, to the neglect of the police? No; I cannot say I do.

865. But if the police had done their duty, do you think the Licensing Act could have been broken in such a way? Oh, yes; I am sure it could.

866. Even if they did their duty independently? Yes; it is done continually.

867. Do you approve of the amalgamation of the offices of council clerk and superintendent of police? Certainly not.

868. Can you give any reason why they should not be amalgamated? The two offices are, to a certain extent, so inconsistent, and the work of the office interferes so with the duties of the superintendent of police that it is not desirable at any time. It has worked fairly well in some municipalities—for instance, in my own municipality, and Glenorchy, but that is a very small district. It would never have worked so well in my district but from its peculiar circumstances. It is a peninsula, and is almost entirely surrounded by water; consequently the services of the superintendent of police are not required so much throughout the district, and he has more time to devote to the council clerk's duties.

869. In your district the offices are amalgamated? Yes.

870. Do you consider that a detective police force is desirable? For what purposes?

871. For the prevention or detection of crime? Of course, a detective force is required in the cities, but not so much in the country.

872. Could a detective force be properly constituted under the present divided system of police? Not satisfactorily, I should think.

873. Then, to have a proper detective force, the police should be centralised? I think so.

874. Do you know whether Tasmania is singular in this divided system of police authority? I cannot say. I do not know.

875. Do you not think sheep and cattle-stealing would be more easily detected if the police were centralised? I think not. I have always found the police of the adjoining districts ready to render any assistance in their power, and have never found any great amount of jealousy existing between the constables in different municipalities.

876. Do you think it desirable constables should be periodically changed from their stations? I do, and have always advocated a system of removing them.

877. Would there not be greater facilities for removing constables from one station to another under the centralised system? Yes, under that system there would be, because they could be removed from one district to another; it is not so in the municipal districts.

878. Would not the police have far more reliance under the centralised system for support in the execution of their duty than they have at present under the divided system? Yes, decidedly more than they have under the divided system.

879. Do you not think the centralisation of the police would tend to increase subordination and concerted action throughout the colony? Not more so than if the police were entirely under municipal management. It might—yes, I dare say it would have a slightly better effect in that respect.

880. Under municipal control—that is, if the whole colony were divided into municipal districts—do you think that a system of concerted action could be obtained? Oh, yes, I think so. I see nothing to prevent it.

881. If the police were united would the present number of superintendents be required? Yes, I think they would be required—that is, unless the districts were amalgamated, which could be done in some cases, and there would not then be required so many superintendents.

882. Then do you think a saving could be effected in this direction? I think so.

883. Do you not think that a system of police government could be devised giving the Executive absolute control? I do not think it would work so well, but it could be done.

884. Do you think it would deprive the wardens of such authority as they ought to possess? No doubt about it, because it means taking the police entirely out of their hands.

885. Then you think the wardens should have the control of the police? I do; at any rate there should be some controlling authority in the district.

886. Do you not think that the principal defects of the police force arise from a too extensive subdivision, a want of unity, and a lack of central control? To a certain extent it does, owing to the divided authority. There is no doubt about that, speaking generally.

887. Do you not think the Executive of the country should have control of the police? I have always thought that it would be better for the police to be under municipal control.

888. Then you think it is sufficient for the Executive to have the power of advice, and not control? I do.

889. Do you think that under a centralised police force there would be any fear of a return to the arbitrary and tyrannical system which is said to have existed under the old Imperial system? To a certain extent; but it could never be so bad as it was.

890. Do you think it possible that such evils could exist under our present system of responsible government? To a certain extent it would, but not to the extent it formerly did.

891. Do you not think much time would be saved and greater efficiency obtained if the police were united? Either under one system or the other it would be so, no doubt.

892. Do you think a mounted police desirable? In some parts of the colony, no doubt—in large districts, for instance.

893. Do you think the police could be attached to our defence force? Not satisfactorily, I should say.

894. Under a centralised police do you not think greater inducements would be made for a superior class of men to enter the service? Possibly so; it might induce a better class of men.

895. As it would give greater facilities for promotion? I do not think that, because I have found policemen under municipalities promoted quite as rapidly as under the territorial management.

896. In cases of riot or emergency would not a united police force be more efficient? They could be more easily got together, no doubt; but I do not think they would be any more efficient. The police, under municipal control, would be quite as efficient to quell a riot as under the centralised system, although, under the latter system, they could be more readily got together.

897. In case of riot or any emergency do you think it desirable that the chief inspector of police should have to get the consent of the wardens before he employed the police from the municipal districts? In a case of that kind I think the inspector should have power to act.

898. Then in case of riot or emergency the Government inspector should have power to control and order the whole police force of the colony? Yes, in a case of that kind, I think so. Of course that would be an emergency case.

899. From your experience do you think any jealousy exists between the two forces of police? I have not found it so, though I have repeatedly heard of it. As I have said before, I have always found the greatest readiness to assist each other.

900. Do you know anything of the police in New South Wales or Victoria? No, I do not.

901. If you were called upon to formulate a system of police would you advise the continuation of the present one? Not the present divided system—certainly not.

902. Do you know Mr. George Murray of Clarence? Yes.

903. He was employed as sub-inspector in your police? Yes, he was.

904. How long was he in your employ? About two or three years: I do not exactly remember how long.

905. He was first appointed constable and afterwards sub-inspector? Yes.

906. Why did he leave the service, Mr. Lamb? Owing to complaints that were made by the inhabitants of Bellerive to the Council that Murray was endeavouring to disseminate freethought principles. It was soon after a freethought lecturer had visited Tasmania; and Murray, instead of attending to his duty, was distributing freethought papers, and was in the habit of collecting persons about the wharf at Bellerive and lecturing them. Complaints were made to the Council, and the matter was referred to the police committee. After a long investigation he was not dismissed from the service, but it was decided to call upon him to resign, as they did not wish to damage his prospects. It was owing to the complaints made; and after a lot of evidence had been taken it was proved that Murray had neglected his duty, and the Council recommended him to resign.

907. Was it proved that he was in the habit of circulating freethought papers? Yes.

908. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Had he been cautioned by the superintendent? Yes, he was cautioned by the superintendent on several occasions before any complaint was made to the Council.

909. *By the Chairman.*—Was there any ill-feeling against him or anything of that kind? I think not; I do remember any.

910. Did he not bring a complaint against certain lads for throwing stones and injuring a boat? A complaint was made, and, I think, a summons was issued; but the charge was withdrawn by the persons who complained to Murray.

911. A charge was made? Yes.

912. Did the lads appear before you? No, they did not.

913. Why? I do not remember. I do not think that had anything to do with Murray's resigning or dismissal in any way.

914. Did Murray, upon entering the police, produce certificates of character? A few, I believe. He had lived in the municipality all his life, and was well known to all the councillors.

915. Do you believe him to be a trustworthy and respectable man? I should say not, after that. I thought so until the charge was made against him and his behaviour since, and now I should say he was not.

916. You have never heard any charge against his character except that of disseminating freethought lectures? None at all.

917. Then the only reason for not believing him to be a reliable man is not from your own knowledge of what he has done, but from hearsay? Not from hearsay, but from my own knowledge of his behaviour since he left the force.

918. Do you think Murray was discharged or that he was called upon to resign because he was too active in endeavouring to see the Licensing Act carried out? Certainly not; there is not a word of truth in it.

919. Do you think he would make enemies of the publican and his friends by so doing? I am sure he would not.

920. Do you believe Murray was correct in stating that it was only necessary for a constable to serve the warden and his friends as a kind of servant and then his position would be all right? I am sure he is not. Speaking for myself and the members of my own Council, we have nothing to do with the police in any shape or form, I am pleased to say—that is, in getting them to act in a capacity of servant to us.

921. If a notice is given to a publican in your district not to sell liquor to a confirmed drunkard, do you think the publican can break the law with impunity? No.

922. Do you believe it has ever been so supplied after a notice has been given? I do not think it has. At the same

time I know these persons who have been prohibited have received as much liquor as formerly, but it has been entirely through their friends, and not from the publican. This has been proved over and over again.

923. Did not the wife of a confirmed drunkard complain to you as warden? Not the wife.

924. Did Mr. Featherstone, or Mr. Guesdon? Mr. Guesdon did; I do not remember Mr. Featherstone doing so.

925. Did you take action at once? Yes, and found that it was not the publican, but the man's friends.

926. Do you think the publican knew for what purpose the liquor was being obtained? No, I do not think he did, because, from information I obtained, the publican had refused him every time, and upon one occasion the superintendent saw the publican follow a man, take the liquor from him, and pour it out into the street when he found the purpose it had been obtained for.

927. You know Mr. Chapman? Well; but he is not a publican at the present time.

928. From what you observed, did he keep a well-conducted house? Yes, a very well-conducted house.

929. You never had cause to believe that he would keep a house where the law was frustrated? I am sure he would not. Mr. Chapman is a man I have always thought was unfit to be a publican in his own interest. He was a passionate man, and if anybody came for liquor that he thought ought not to have it he would refuse them. They would then go to another house and obtain it.

930. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Did Mr. Chapman have such influence with the warden and councillors as to be able to break the law with impunity? No, I am sure not, but he had the respect of the whole district.

931. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—With respect to the information laid against Masters Chapman and Maum, was it a fact that it was withdrawn at the instance of the superintendent? I do not remember the circumstances of the case.

MR. WILLIAM EDWARD MORRISBY, *examined.*

932. *By the Chairman.*—You are Council Clerk and Superintendent of Police at Clarence? Yes.

933. How long have you held these offices? Just seven years on the 6th of this month.

934. Have you always been in the municipal police? Not before that.

935. You have not had any experience of the working of the territorial police? No, not in connection with the police, only as a resident before municipal action was taken by the district.

936. Do you approve of the present divided system of police? No.

937. Do you think it would be a better arrangement if the police were centralised? I think the police would be better under one control.

938. Do you approve of the amalgamation of the offices of council clerk and superintendent of police? Well, to a certain extent. There are objections to it, as, for instance, the fact that the council clerk has to take down the evidence as well as examine the witness as superintendent, which is not always desirable. Where there would be full employment for the superintendent of police I certainly think the offices should not be combined; but in many municipal districts the superintendent of police is not fully employed, and there, of course, it is not so much a matter for consideration.

939. Do you believe that the municipal police can do their duty independently? Yes, as far as my experience goes.

940. You do not think they have too many masters to obey and serve? I think they serve all the better for that, as far as the ratepayers are concerned. I believe the police, as far as they are personally concerned, would be better placed under the territorial or Government management, for the ratepayers—every one of whom is the policeman's master to a certain extent—when they feel aggrieved, bring their complaints before the superintendent, and if he does not take notice they make a formal complaint to the municipal council, so that it is impossible for any constable to be guilty of any great breach of duty.

941. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Does not that militate against the fearless discharge of duty? I do not think so. My experience is that a constable is generally disliked by the whole of the ratepayers, who think he has nothing to do if he is not apprehending some one or bringing something forward, and consequently there is a sort of jealousy between the small ratepayers and the constable, and if the constable does not carry out the orders of his superior he will be informed against.

942. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think the protection to life and property, and the prevention of sheep and cattle-stealing is well looked after under the divided system? As far as my experience goes, which is centered in the one district with regard to the police, I have always found the most ready assistance given me by the districts of Sorell, Richmond, and Hobart in any case where I have desired assistance.

943. In cases of sheep or cattle-stealing have you always found the other municipalities and the territorial police ready to assist? Yes, most decidedly.

944. Have you not found jealousy existing amongst the police? No; I have heard jealousy spoken of, but I have had no experience of it. My constables have gone into another district and apprehended a man for a robbery that had taken place, and handed the prisoner over to the authorities in that district, without causing jealousy. I have always myself freely assisted, and others have assisted me even where I have not asked for it.

945. Do you not think it desirable that constables should be removed from district to district? Yes, I think it would be a good plan.

946. Under the present system that cannot be effected? No.

947. Do you think the police would have far more reliance under the centralised system of Government for the execution of their duty? In some instances they would feel more independent of their neighbours and of local influences.

948. You think centralisation would tend to increase the facilities for concerted action? Yes.

949. Do you think that the general welfare may be defeated under a system which places the police at the caprice of an independent local body? No, I do not think so, because the police are immediately under the control of their superintendent, and I hold it to be his duty to make them acquainted with the law and theirs to carry out the law. If they carry out the law and people find fault with it, it is not their fault but the fault of the law. In my capacity as Superintendent of Police, if people disagree with my action I cannot help it; it is my duty, and I leave it for the bench to say whether it is right or not. I instruct my constables in the same way—to find out what their

duty is, and carry out that duty without respect to persons. If they do this they need not fear anyone, although, as I said before, there is a jealousy on the part of the local people to see that the constables do their duty and move about the district.

950. If it has been said that a constable in your district could not do his duty unless he was a servant of the warden of the municipality and his friends, would that statement be correct? No, it would not, Sir.

951. Do you remember George Murray? I do.

952. He was a constable in your district, and afterwards sub-inspector? Yes.

953. How long was he under you? The whole time he was in the service.

954. Why did he leave the service? He had been petty constable stationed at Bellerive under my superintendence, and was afterwards sent to an out-station, where complaints were made against him, though the people would not come forward and make a charge; but the complaints became so frequent that I thought I must bring the matter before the Council or bring him to Bellerive again. I could only do this by appointing him sub-inspector; but I knew in that case his duty would be carried out under my immediate control. After he came there, with this promotion the man seemed to lose his head. He ignored my orders to a certain extent, though in a manner which did not allow me to charge him with neglect of duty. He then got hold of some religious craze, and used to hold meetings to discuss these matters. Complaints were made to the Council, and the Council decided to call upon him to resign, as they did not wish to injure his future prospects.

955. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Did you caution Murray as to his conduct? Yes. On one occasion I told him to call a man's attention to what he was doing with regard to some fencing. I told him not to enter into any conversation, but just to state what he was told. Instead of doing that I received a lawyer's letter with a large number of questions with reference to a conversation that had taken place between the man and Murray. I told Murray he would have to simply carry out the orders he received; but he seemed to have lost his head altogether.

956. Did he not make himself unpopular in the district in any other direction? No. He had a quarrel with Mr. Chapman, the publican.

957. Did he not lay an information against Masters Chapman, Maum, and Propsting? No. I laid the information, but Murray and the other constable obtained the information. They were called upon to appear, but they did not, the summons being withdrawn.

958. Why? It appears these boys threw some stones at a boat-shed owned by Mr. Featherstone, or represented by him, who gave information to the police, and upon that information I summoned the three boys. I had no proof, but I summoned them, having sufficient circumstantial evidence to allow me to do that. My object in summoning the three, was to withdraw the charge against one, and call him as a witness. I told Mr. Featherstone of what I had done and asked him if he wished me to proceed. He wrote a letter asking me to withdraw the charge, as he thought they had suffered sufficiently for what they had done.

959. The boys apologised to him, thereby admitting their guilt? Yes.

960. In consequence of Murray having made this charge against the three young men, did Mr. Maum lay a charge against him of propagating freethought doctrines? No, I do not think that, because the two events took place at a wide difference of time. In fact, I do not know that Mr. Maum then knew of the charge that had been made against his son. Mr. Maum brought under the notice of the Council the fact that Murray was propagating freethought doctrines, and the matter was referred to the police committee for enquiry.

961. Was it Mr. Maum's charge that was inquired into? Mr. Maum made the charge in consequence of Mr. Westbrook having told him that it was disgraceful that a constable in the service of the public should harangue crowds on freethought doctrines.

962. Was Mr. Maum's charge substantiated? Yes, and Murray was censured by the council, and another one gone on with: that was his charge against the superintendent of police and others, which he entirely failed to prove.

963. Did you ever make a charge against Murray of having made a statement reflecting on Mr. Chapman's character? No. When the enquiry was being instituted, and Murray was asked why he carried on this freethought business, he said no notice would have been taken of it only for Chapman's enmity to him, and that Chapman had boasted that he had sufficient influence over the councillors whose names he mentioned, and the superintendent of police, that he could do as he liked as a publican. Mr. Chapman was not then a publican, or was just about to give it up. When Murray was being examined as to this freethought business he said nothing whatever about this when he came before the Council, only that it was owing to the enmity exhibited by Chapman. There was no charge made against Murray; he was simply asked to come and substantiate this statement he had made against Chapman, and was requested to bring all papers and witnesses to do so.

964. Murray said the charge was made against him? I do not remember the charge. There was no charge made.

965. *By the Chairman.*—Do you believe that his activity in endeavouring to carry out the Licensing Act had anything to do with his being called upon to resign? Certainly not.

966. Was he very active in trying to enforce the Act? No. We had two or three old drunkards in the place, and from information we had got from their wives and others, I thought it better that orders should be obtained to prevent these persons from being served with liquor. Orders were obtained, and these people continued to get drunk. They used to go to Hobart, get drunk, and then return to exhibit themselves, though not sufficiently drunk to be locked up.

967. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—Is the general feeling in your district in favour of centralising the police? I do not know; I rather think not. Of course there are different people who may have suffered a little more from the police than others, and they may be more in favour of the territorial police than others; but if the district were polled, I think a majority would be in favour of municipal control. I am only speaking from what I gather, and have never asked the question.

968. Do you not think if the police were centralised they would be of more value in acting with the defence force? Yes; that is why I believe in their being under one control.

969. At present there is no system of military drill in force? No, not any; that is one objection I have to the present system.

970. *By the Chairman.*—Do you find any difficulty in enforcing the Licensing Act? We have only three houses in the district now, and they are generally well conducted. The occupiers know very well that if I see anything I know to be wrong I caution them, and they know if I caution them once from past experience that proceedings will be taken.

971. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—How many men have you under your control as superintendent? Four constables and two specials.

972. Do you not think the number of superintendents could be lessened if a more extended area were given to them? Yes, and the superintendent would then have only his police duties to attend to.

973. They could then oversee and attend to larger areas than at present? Yes, I think so. In municipalities where the two offices are combined they occupy him in the office four days out of six.

974. Do you know the number of municipal superintendents in the colony? I think it is 22.

975. Are you acquainted with the systems of Victoria and New South Wales? No.

976. You know the system of centralised bodies which obtains in those places? Yes.

977. Have you had any opportunity of getting information with respect to it from members of the force or in any other way? No, I have not had any communication, or read anything with regard to how their duties are carried out.

978. Do you not think that with centralisation a more effective system, and possibly a less expensive system could be perfected? Yes, I think it is possible. I believe the police should undergo military instruction. I have always been of that opinion, so that they could act as one body if called upon.

979. Is any literary examination necessary for the admission of constables to the force? They are obliged to be able to read and write. They are supposed to be able to write an intelligent report upon any matter—nothing more.

980. *By the Chairman.*—Have any informations been laid against publicans in the Clarence district? Only two for a considerable period.

981. Who laid that information? I believe I did, at the instigation of the Rev. Mr. Finnis; and one by Constable Murray.

982. Do you believe the provisions of the law have been carried out with respect to the public-houses at Bellerive? No; I believe the closing at 10 o'clock is not strictly adhered to any more than it is in any other part of the Colony.

983. Have you had breaches of the Licensing Act brought under your notice by Murray? No. He did say he knew Chapman had (just before he left the house) served some of these people against whom orders had been issued. I said, "Bring your charge. Take an opportunity; slip in and take the liquor from the man if he is served." I gave Murray every encouragement to get a conviction.

984. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—I suppose as long as no actual disturbance or other breach of the law takes place, the provision for closing at 10 o'clock is not strictly enforced? If a man conducts his house decently, quietly, and orderly it is not interfered with, because in country districts there are visitors and travellers whose wants the publican has to attend to; the front door is closed at 10 o'clock, but the house is not cleared as a rule.

985. Have you been in the habit of frequenting public-houses? Yes.

986. Have you ever been taken away under the influence of drink? No; I have never been in such a state during the whole time I have been in the police. [Should answer 986 want confirmation I shall be happy to furnish the Committee with the names of gentlemen whom I have met in hotels up to very late hours, that are able to bear me out in the above answer.—W. E. MORRISBY, *Superintendent of Police*, 12. 11. 86.]

987. Have you heard that the doors of the public-houses are frequently open on Sundays? Yes, the side doors open every Sunday from 12 or 1 o'clock.

988. And on Sunday nights? Yes, the side doors, but not late, for this reason: there are a number of persons who travel from Hobart to other parts of the district. I have had to caution the publicans against serving the people of Bellerive, but it is difficult, as these persons claim to be travellers from Hobart.

989. How many prohibition orders against drunkards have you obtained in your district? I think four.

990. Do you believe the publicans have served them after notice has been given? I have taxed them with it, and gone as far as to say I would charge them with it, but there was no proof. I believe they have been served, but by the publican's servants. I instructed constables to arrest any of the above persons if sufficiently under the influence of liquor to justify them in doing so.

991. At the time Chapman kept an hotel it was a respectable house, was it not? Yes.

992. *By Mr. Fitzgerald.*—These irregularities are just as likely to occur under one system as under the other? Decidedly. I don't suppose the publicans would serve these old loafers, but their friends sometimes call for beer and hand it over to the old men. On one occasion Chapman took back a glass and poured it out on the floor because it was obtained for one of these prohibited men. Chapman is a man who would not stand any nonsense if he knew it was wanted for this purpose.

993. *By the Chairman.*—Then selling liquor to drunkards or confirmed drunkards has not been done? Not so far as the police know. I was very anxious to get a case, because some of these old fellows made it a boast that they would have it. They did, and do get it, in spite of the vigilance of the police; but it is through their friends they get it, under false representations.

994. If it has been said that Chapman had great influence over the warden and councillors, and dictated to them, would that be correct? I think not.

995. Did you ever hear that the Council of Clarence was called "The Chapman Ministry?" Yes, that was a common phrase by two or three opposition people.

996. Do you believe the business of the Council was talked over with Chapman in his bar? It may have been; but I do not believe that Chapman or anyone else had any influence over the Council or over any member of it.

997. Did you ever give orders to Murray or any policeman under you to go about as a spy on the publicans? No. The only reference there ever was to being a spy was in discussing the matter of serving these prohibited men. I think Murray wanted me to give him an order to secrete himself in the house. I said he could go in at any time and seize the liquor, if sold to one of these men. He said he did not like to do that. Then I said "How are you to get a conviction? I do not believe in spying or laying traps for people, but use your best vigilance to obtain a conviction, if you can."

I find on referring to the records of the Police Court that there are at least nine convictions obtained by me against Mr. J. R. Chapman for allowing cattle to stray on the streets of the township.—W. E. MORRISBY, *Superintendent of Police*, Clarence, 12. 11. 86.

[In continuation of H. A. Paper No. 163.]

APPENDIX.

Launceston, 28th July, 1874.

MY DEAR SIR,

As the advisability of centralising the police is about to be brought before Parliament, and which may probably lead to the question being mooted in reference to the continuation of rural municipalities, I forward for your perusal copy of a document I forwarded to the Attorney-General last year bearing upon these two subjects.

I do not for one moment put forth my system as perfect—far from it; but I think it will afford good ground-work for establishing the urgent necessity for a change, and that speedily.

Since writing to Mr. Giblin I may add that I have attended a Court of Quarter Sessions in a municipal district, where the second magistrate was not forthcoming, and upon the return of the policeman who had been sent to search for him, he communicated to the warden with bated breath that Mr. Justice ——— was lying dead drunk at a public-house, and consequently unable to attend; and I have been informed by a gentleman, whom you will know, that he was obliged to adjourn the court in consequence of his brother municipal magistrate being in a state of intoxication—two instances highly creditable to municipalities!

Believe me, my dear Sir,
Yours truly,

C. W. ROCHER.

THOMAS REIBEX, Esq., M.H.A.

THAT eminent man, the late Lord Brougham, in his history of the British Constitution, most justly observed—“that the advantage of a Judicial System is altogether inestimable. It is of far greater importance than any other branch of the laws, or of the Constitution in every country. A people will be miserable under a good system of Law if its judicial system be defective, and it may be comparatively happy under an imperfect code of laws if those laws are well known, not frequently changed, and justly administered. So a people will be wretched under a free government if its courts of justice are corrupt or careless, or subject to the influence of the fickle multitude. And, on the other hand, they may enjoy much happiness under an absolute government if the laws are fixed, and are administered ably and equally.”

It is almost universally admitted that the existing system of administering justice in the several Rural Municipalities throughout the colony is glaringly defective, and the cause of much ill feeling and discontent in the municipal districts. Those who administer the laws are subject to the influence spoken of by Lord Brougham—the “fickle multitude”—in securing their election as district councillors, and thus the best class of men have frequently, should they contest an election, to give way to men of but very mediocre qualifications, and on this class of men devolves the duty of electing the warden. Strange as it may appear, it is nevertheless a fact within my own knowledge, that an individual has been elected a councillor who could neither read nor write, in a district especially possessing a body of magistrates of admitted talent and respectability, but who declined becoming members of municipal councils as at present constituted.

To the warden and councillors is entrusted the preliminary investigation, and in many cases the adjudication in cases of felony, the adjudication in breaches of our numerous statutes, involving the infliction of heavy penalties and lengthened imprisonment, and, should they be territorial magistrates, which the warden is *ex officio*, the adjudication in Civil suits to the extent of £30; and these important duties are expected to be legally and satisfactorily performed by individuals utterly ignorant of the most simple elements of jurisprudence and rules of evidence. The warden is elected annually, and in many districts the pernicious practice has obtained of electing him to the chairmanship at Sessions, where he has to preside on the hearing of appeal cases, frequently involving intricate points of law of which he is expected to be the exponent. Can anything be more farcical than thus placing a man, who has probably never read a work upon law in his life, and who, as I myself have frequently witnessed, has not the most remote conception of the law of evidence, in such a position, and is it not an act of gross injustice to the community?

It is nothing uncommon to find an Appeal Court composed of three municipal justices, including the warden, presided over by that officer as chairman, two of which magistrates, that is the warden and another, having already adjudicated on the case appealed against in Petty Sessions, the third magistrate being merely a “dummy” to make up the Court. And this is dignified with the term “the due administration of justice.” Can there be a more hollow mockery?

There is no uniformity of procedure: in one Municipal District one system is adopted, and in an adjoining district another diametrically opposite, and the residents have not any faith in the decisions. The consequence is that Municipal Magistrates are looked upon and spoken of with derision, and the inhabitants of the district do not hesitate to charge them openly with favouritism and corruption; and I have no hesitation in asserting that were the Municipal Districts polled, three-fourths of the inhabitants would vote for the centralisation of the police, and the abolition of ministerial and judicial powers in municipalities.

From what I have witnessed in my own practice before benches composed of municipal magistrates, I must say, giving them every credit for wishing to act correctly, that as a rule they display an utter unfitness for their position, and the wardens and councillors of many municipalities have candidly admitted to me that their constitution was a great mistake, and that the abolition of the present system, which has had the effect of driving many out of the colony, would be an invaluable boon to the community.

As a remedy I propose the following plan :—

- 1st. The centralisation of the police. We are told that a man cannot serve two masters. Under the present system a poor devil of a policeman has to serve seven masters and their friends, or run the chance of losing his place.
- 2nd. Municipalities to have the sole control of the roads and the monetary affairs of the district, the levying rates, and the receipt and expenditure of fines and fees. The warden to be an honorary officer elected triennially, and out of the municipal body there should be elected at the same time a treasurer with a small emolument; auditors as at present, and a small allowance voted out of the receipts for clerical assistance. I would abolish the distinction between territorial and municipal magistrates, and it should be clearly understood that the election to the office of councillor should not of necessity entitle the holder to be placed in the Commission of the Peace.
- 3rd. A magistrate to attend daily to adjudicate in cases only requiring one justice. Any magistrate I found remiss in attending to this duty should, without ceremony, be struck out of the Commission of the Peace. Such a course would impress upon justices the important fact that if they coveted the honour they would not be permitted with impunity to shirk the duties.
- 4th. There are at present 20 rural municipalities and 8 rural police districts.

I would divide the island into four divisions, as follows :—

<i>First Division.</i>	<i>Second Division.</i>	<i>Third Division.</i>	<i>Fourth Division.</i>
New Norfolk	Kingston	Oatlands	Evandale
Hamilton	Clarence	Campbell Town, including Ross	Longford
Bothwell	Richmond	Fingal	Westbury
Green Ponds	Sorell	Avoca	Deloraine
Brighton			

I would abolish Glenorchy, amalgamating one portion with New Norfolk or Pontville (Brighton), and the remaining portion with Hobart Town.

I would allow Franklin, George Town, Emu Bay, Port Sorell, and Russell to remain, and amalgamate Glamorgan and Spring Bay under a resident magistrate.

All Court of Requests cases in these police districts above ten pounds and not exceeding thirty pounds to be tried by a jury of three. As population increases the districts of George Town, Emu Bay, Port Sorell, and Russell will have to be formed into a fifth division.

I would appoint a visiting magistrate for each division, whose duties would be to preside at the investigation of all felony and double cases, to act as Commissioner of Court of Requests, such courts to have jurisdiction to the extent of fifty pounds (£50), and all causes above ten pounds to be tried before a jury, as is done in Hobart Town and Launceston. Such visiting magistrate to act as chairman with two magistrates at least to hear Quarter Sessions Appeals, as also as chairman to try criminal offences arising within his division; with a jury of twelve, the same as the Recorder at Launceston,—a course that would be the saving of time and expense, and be also of incalculable convenience to prosecutors and witnesses. The present system of criminal proceedings entail upon the country a very large outlay in the shape of witnesses' expenses.

Police—Detention in Gaol, &c.—By the plan proposed these expenses would be considerably lessened, and witnesses, jurymen, and others would not be detained for days and days as at present awaiting the trial, and would be enabled to attend Court and to return home the same day. Considering the facility for railway travelling, the duties of the fourth division could be, without detriment to the public service, easily discharged by the Recorder at Launceston. I make use of the designation "visiting magistrate," although the more correct one would be "country" or "district" judge, as in the neighbouring colonies, taking into consideration the nature of the duties he would have to perform.

By the proposed plan the several municipal districts will be relieved from the cost of the police, the expense of warden, and certain other items of municipal outlay, but additional charges may be entailed upon the General Revenue. To meet this I should levy a small contribution upon each district in the shape of a judicial and police rate. A very trifling amount in the £1 will meet this, and when the saving in criminal procedure is taken into consideration, and the saving of time and outlay to witnesses and others, I feel convinced that the additional expense would be if anything but trifling, and even if it were otherwise, surely the efficient and prompt administration of justice must far outweigh any monetary consideration. The appointment of visiting magistrate should be given to a professional man, of good standing at the Bar, with a liberal salary and travelling expenses. It should be a life appointment, subject to removal by Parliament, placing him in the same independent position as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

I feel satisfied that if the details are properly carried out my proposed scheme will give universal satisfaction; and I will close with another quotation from the same celebrated writer, which fully confirms the views I have enunciated. Speaking of the duties of magistrates in session, His Lordship writes as follows :—"It is, however, to be wished that some arrangement were adopted for placing paid and professional gentlemen at the head of the different benches of magistrates. The duty of presiding over such tribunals is far too onerous for a country gentleman or other unprofessional person. Nor would it be an inconsiderable relief to the magistracy, acting singly, or in petty sessions, to have a learned person whose assistance and advice they might obtain upon any difficulty occurring.

C. A. W. ROCHER.

25th January, 1873.