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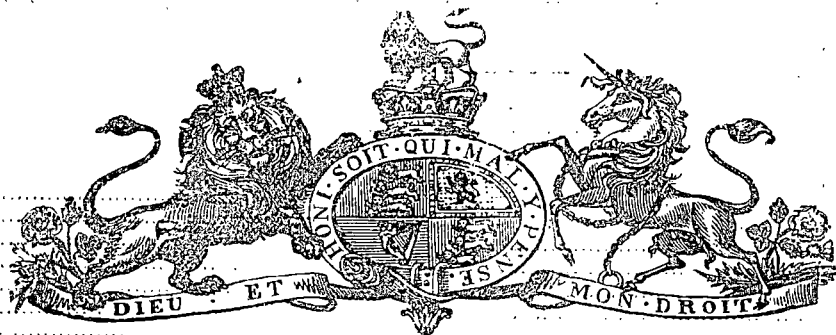
TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HUON ELECTION:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ELECTIONS AND
QUALIFICATIONS.

Brought up by Mr. Aikenhead, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
October 8, 1880.



R E P O R T.

THE Committee of Elections and Qualifications duly appointed under the provisions of "The Electoral Act," to whom, on 19th August, 1880, was referred the Petition of William Fisher against the election and return of Joseph Solomon as a Member for the Electoral District of the Huon, have determined, and do hereby accordingly declare—

1. That the ballot papers at the last Huon Election, to which exception has been taken, were by a majority of the Committee held to have been properly received by the Returning Officer.
2. That the said Joseph Solomon was, by his agent or agents, at the last Huon Election guilty of bribery.

That bribery extensively prevailed, and that, therefore, the last Huon Election is declared absolutely void, and the said Joseph Solomon not duly elected.

That the cost of this enquiry be defrayed by the said Joseph Solomon.

The Committee desire to record their opinion that the district should be disfranchised for a time, on account of the corrupt practices which have been found to prevail there during this and previous Elections.

The Evidence in this case is appended.

J. AIKENHEAD, *Chairman.*

DAYS OF MEETING.

August 25, 26, 31; September 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30; October 1, 5, 6, 8.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

	Page		Page
Hon. Joseph Solomon	3	R. P. Adams	22
R. J. Edwards.....	4, 37, 42, 50	Eliza Slough	23
Andrew Wright.....	4	Emily Seymour	26
George Lucas.....	5	John Midson	27
William Henry Andrewartha	8	George Miles	28
John Hamilton.....	8	William Robert Lucas	29
C. J. Barclay.....	9	Joseph Keen	32
Robert Vince	9	Charles Oates	32
Peter Good	11, 21	W. G. Macmichael.....	35
Charles Coleman	12	George M'Guire.....	36
John Thomson	13	Harriet Midson	36
H. B. Evans	15	Charles Hollinsdale.....	43
R. Pybus	18	James Gray.....	43
Thomas Howard	18	William Fisher	46
Robert Blackwood	19	William Hinchmore.....	51
John Hay	20		

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1880.

The Committee met at 11.30.

Present.—Mr. Dodery, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Aikenhead, Mr. John Lord, Mr. Cameron.

Mr. Aikenhead was appointed Chairman.

The Clerk of the Council produced and read the Petition of Mr. William Fisher, setting forth—

“That he was a duly nominated Candidate at the late Election of a Member to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of James Thomas Robertson, Esquire, for the Electoral District of the Huon.

That Joseph Solomon, Esquire, of Hobart Town aforesaid, was also nominated as a Candidate for election for the said Electoral District of the Huon; and a Poll for the said Election was duly held and taken on or about the 23rd day of June last.

That Edward Atkyns Walpole, of Franklin, in Tasmania, Esquire, was the Returning Officer at the said Election; and the said Joseph Solomon was by him declared to be the duly elected Member for the said Electoral District of the Huon.

That, in ascertaining the state of the poll from the ballot-papers taken at the several polling-places at such Election, certain of such ballot-papers in favour of the said Joseph Solomon, which should have been rejected as invalid, were by the said Returning Officer allowed to be recorded in his favour, contrary to the provisions of Section 6 of the Act of the Parliament of Tasmania, 26 Victoria, Number 14, and Section 69 of 21 Victoria, Number 32.

That the said Returning Officer in declaring the general state of the poll at the close of such Election announced the votes for each candidate to be equal, and therefore as such Returning Officer gave his casting vote in favour of the said Joseph Solomon.

That, had the said Returning Officer rejected such invalid papers as aforesaid, your Petitioner would have had a majority of votes, and would have been entitled to be declared duly elected at such Election.

That the said Joseph Solomon, as such Candidate as aforesaid, and at such Election as aforesaid, was guilty, either by himself or his Agent or Agents, of bribery at such Election, contrary to the provisions of the said Acts or Act.

And praying that a full and searching enquiry may be made into the matters of the Petition; and upon the same being found to be true, that the Petitioner may be declared to be the duly elected Member of the Council for the Electoral District of Huon, or that such other remedy may be afforded to him as may seem meet.”

Section 6 of Act 26 Vict. No. 14, and 69 of 21 Vict. No. 32, referred to in the Petition, read.

The Clerk of the Council produces the Ballot-papers, which are opened and examined by the Committee.

The numbers are found correct according to the abstract furnished by the Returning Officer; viz.—

For Mr. Solomon	51
For Mr. Fisher	51
Informal papers	3

The Committee having deliberated;

A Motion was made—That the Committee do not find that any of the Ballot-papers in favour of Mr. Solomon which were admitted by the Returning Officer were improperly so admitted.

The Question being put;

The Committee divided.

AYES 3.
Mr. Crowther.
Mr. Dodery.
Mr. John Lord.

NOE 1.
Mr. Cameron.

Ordered, That notice be given to Mr. Fisher and Mr. Solomon to attend either personally or by Counsel to-morrow, at half-past eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and furnish a list of witnesses whom they desire to call.

The Committee adjourn until to-morrow, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1880.

The Committee met at 11-30.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. Fisher appears by Mr. H. Dobson in the absence of his Counsel, and Mr. Solomon by his Counsel, Mr. M'Intyre.

Mr. M'Intyre suggests whether, inasmuch as there is a Notice of Motion pending in reference to the legality of the reception of Mr. Fisher's petition by the Council, the proceedings of the Committee should not be suspended until such Notice of Motion is disposed of.

The objection is overruled.

Mr. M'Intyre then argues that the Petition was improperly received by the Council, inasmuch as it was not presented to the Council within the time prescribed by law.

Strangers having retired, the Committee deliberate.

Question—Whether the Committee shall proceed—being put, the Committee divide.

AYES 3.
Mr. John Lord.
Mr. Dodery.
Mr. Cameron.

NOE 1.
Mr. Crowther.

Strangers re-admitted.

The Chairman having stated the purpose for which the parties to the Petition were required to appear before the Committee at the present sitting, namely, to furnish a list of the witnesses whom they desired to have called, Mr. M'Intyre applies to the Committee to order the following particulars to be furnished by the Petitioner:—

1. The date of each alleged act of bribery.
2. The names of the persons bribing.
3. The names of the persons bribed.

Mr. Dobson objects that the Committee have no power to make such an order; and that to put the other side in possession of the names of his witnesses would be prejudicial to the case of the Petitioner.

It is contended on the other side that the power is conferred by Section 126 of "The Electoral Act."

Strangers withdraw, and the Committee deliberate.

The Committee decide that the witnesses must be named, but that the alleged acts of bribery need not, at the present stage, be specified.

Mr. Dobson, for the Petitioner, gives in the following names as those of his principal witnesses, and proposes to name any others at a future time:—

Messrs. W. Andrewartha, Port Esperance.
Peter Good, Franklin.
R. J. Edwards, Hobart Town.
H. B. Evans, Hobart Town.
George Lucas, Kingston.
Charles Coleman, Franklin.

Ordered, That such of the witnesses as the Petitioner may desire to name first called be summoned for Tuesday next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Mr. M'Intyre states that his side cannot name their witnesses at present, but will do so when the case is opened.

The Committee adjourn to Tuesday next, at 10 o'clock.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1880.

The Committee met at 10 o'clock.

Present.—Mr. Aikenhead, Mr. Dodery, Mr. Cameron, and Mr. John Lord.

In consequence of the absence of one Member of the Committee, the Committee consider that they cannot proceed, and therefore adjourn until to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

The Committee adjourn at 10-55.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1880.

The Committee met at 10 o'clock.

Present.—Mr. Aikenhead (in the Chair), Mr. John Lord, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Crowther, and Mr. Dodery.

Counsel argue as to the line of examination to be pursued.

Strangers withdraw and the Committee deliberate.

The Hon. Joseph Solomon, Mr. R. J. Edwards, Mr. Andrew Wright, and George Lucas examined.

The Committee adjourn till to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1880.

The Committee met at 10 o'clock.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. George Lucas's examination was continued.

Mr. Andrewartha and Mr. Hamilton examined.

The Committee adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past Ten o'clock.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1880.

The Committee met at 10.30 A.M.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. C. J. Barclay, Robert Vince, and Peter Good examined.

Adjourn till to-morrow, at 10.30.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1880.

The Committee met at 10.30 A.M.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. Coleman examined.

A question being objected to, strangers withdraw, and the Committee deliberate.

Examination continued.

Mr. Thomson examined.

Adjourn until 10.30 on Friday.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1880.

The Committee met at 10.30.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. H. B. Evans examined.

The Committee adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past 10 o'clock.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1880.

The Committee met at 10.30.

Present.—All the Members.

Messrs. Pybus, Howard, Blackwood, and Hay examined.

Adjourn till to-morrow, at 10.30.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1880.

The Committee met at 10.30.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. Peter Good examined.

Mr. R. P. Adams examined.

Adjourn till Tuesday next, at 10.30.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1880.

The Committee met at 10.30.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. McIntyre addresses the Committee on behalf of Mr. Solomon.

William Mead examined.

Adjourn till to-morrow, at 10.30.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1880.

The Committee met at 10.30.

Present.—All the Members.

Mrs. Slough examined.

Committee deliberate.

Mrs. Slough's examination concluded.

Mrs. Seymour and John Midson examined.

The Committee adjourn till to-morrow, at 10.30.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1880.

The Committee met at 10·30 A.M.

Present.—All the Members.

Messrs. Miles and W. R. Lucas examined.

The Committee adjourned till to-morrow, at 10·30 A.M.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1880.

The Committee met at 10·30.

Present.—All the Members.

Joseph Keen and Thomas Oates examined.

The Committee adjourned till 10·30 on Tuesday next.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1880.

The Committee met at 10·30.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. Macmichael, George M'Guire, and Harriet Midson examined.

The Committee adjourn until to-morrow, at 10·30 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1880.

The Committee met at 10·30.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. Edwards's examination concluded.

The Committee adjourn until 10·30 to-morrow.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1880.

The Committee met at 10·30.

Present.—All the Members.

Mr. Edwards further examined.

The Committee deliberate.

Mr. Edwards's examination concluded; Mr. Hollinsdale and Mr. Gray examined.

The Committee adjourn till to-morrow at 10·30.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1880.

The Committee met at 10·30.

Present.—All the Members.

Captain Fisher examined.

The Council adjourn till Tuesday next, at 10·30.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1880.

The Committee met at 10·30 o'clock.

Present.—All the Members.

Captain Fisher's examination concluded.

Mr. Edwards re-examined.

William Hinchmore examined.

The Committee adjourned to 10·30 to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1880.

The Committee met at 10·30.

Present.—All the Members.

William Hinchmore recalled and further examined.

Counsel address the Committee.

Adjourn till Friday, at 11 o'clock.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1880.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

Present.—All the Members.

Draft Report presented by the Chairman and read, with slight amendments, as follows:—

"The Committee of Elections and Qualifications duly appointed under the provisions of "The Electoral Act," to whom, on 19th August, 1880, was referred the Petition of William Fisher against the election and return of Joseph Solomon as a Member for the Electoral District of the Huon, have determined, and do hereby accordingly declare,—

1. That the ballot-papers at the last Huon Election, to which exception has been taken, were, by a majority of the Committee, held to have been properly received by the Returning Officer.
2. That the said Joseph Solomon was, by his agent or agents, at the last Huon Election guilty of bribery.

That bribery extensively prevailed, and therefore the last Huon Election is declared absolutely void, and the said Joseph Solomon not duly elected.

That the cost of this enquiry be defrayed by the said Joseph Solomon.

The Committee desire to record their opinion that the district should be disfranchised for a time on account of the corrupt practices which have been found to prevail there during this and previous elections.

The evidence in this Case is appended."

The Clerk of the Council presented the accounts of costs as agreed to by Counsel on both sides, as follows:—

On the side of the Petitioner	£ 180
On the side of the Respondent	163
	<hr/>
	£343
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EVIDENCE.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1880.

The Hon. JOSEPH SOLOMON called in, sworn, and examined.

1. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Joseph Solomon, of Temple House, and you are the Member who was elected on the 23rd June last? Yes.
 2. Captain W. Fisher was the Candidate at that Election who opposed you? Yes.
 3. Who was appointed your Agent for Election Expenses? Mr. R. J. Edwards, of Hobart Town.
 4. Who were your Sub-Agents? I had none.
 5. Did any people act as Agents or Canvassers for you? I do not know.
 6. Do you swear that? I do.
 7. You know Mr. H. B. Evans? I do.
 8. Was he not acting as your Agent? He was not.
 9. Did you know whether he was canvassing on your behalf? I did know. He was doing so voluntarily. He said he would canvass.
 10. You told us before that he did canvass for you? I believe so: I cannot say of my own knowledge.
 11. Did you pay him anything on account of your Election Expenses? I did not.
 12. Did he pay any moneys on account of your expenses? No: not that I am aware of.
 13. Was Mr. Edwards authorised by you to give him any money? No.
 14. How long was Mr. Evans canvassing for you? I do not know of my own knowledge.
 15. Then how do you believe that he canvassed? From what he told me. He told me that he had been to Brown's River, and had seen a few people who had promised me their votes.
 16. Did you ever tell anyone that Evans acted as your Agent in this Election? I do not think that I did.
 17. Do you remember stating to Mr. John Hamilton that Evans was your agent, but that you could have done better without him? I do not.
 18. If Mr. John Hamilton swears that you did so, he would be swearing what is false? Yes.
 19. In what bank do you keep your accounts? In the Commercial Bank.
 20. What money did you pay to your Election Agent on account of election expenses? About £240.
 21. How did you pay it? By cheques.
 22. Did you pay any more money than that on account of your expenses? No.
 23. Did you pay any more money than that to Edwards for the purpose of the Election? No.
 24. Do you know how many paid canvassers or agents you had? I don't know; Mr. Edwards was the only agent I recognise.
 25. Have you a mortgage on one of Mr. Evans' vessels, the *Pet*? I have.
 26. Have you allowed him any overdue interest on the mortgage? I have not.
 27. Have you promised to allow it? I have not.
 28. Is all the interest paid up to due date? It is not.
 29. How much is due? Some hundreds; I cannot say exactly.
 30. Do you know whether Mr. Evans was indebted to Captain Robinson? I do not.
 31. Did you give Mr. Evans any money to give to Captain Robinson before he went away? I did not.
 32. Did you go down to the District to canvass personally? Yes, with Mr. Edwards.
 33. Where did you go to with Mr. Edwards? To several places.
 34. Was Mr. Evans with you at any of those places? He was not.
 35. During the whole course of your candidature was Mr. Evans not with you? He was not.
 36. Then do you know any persons other than Mr. Edwards who canvassed or acted for you in the District? I do not.
 37. Will you swear that you did not know that Cuthbert and Oates were canvassing for you? I did not know that they were canvassing.
 38. Were you driving in your carriage at any time with Cuthbert? I do not remember.
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MR. EDWARDS *called in, sworn, and examined.*

39. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Richard James Edwards? Yes.
40. Did you act as the agent of Mr. Solomon at the recent election for the Huon? I was the legally appointed agent under the Electoral Act.
41. What money did Mr. Solomon pay you for election expenses? A little over £240, including my own fees and personal expenses before Mr. Solomon consented to be a candidate.
42. How was that paid to you? It was not all paid to me. Part was paid through the election auditor, and the balance to me by cheque on Commercial Bank.
43. Was Mr. H. B. Evans canvassing for Mr. Solomon? I heard it currently reported that he was canvassing for him.
44. What did you pay him for his expenses in canvassing? I did not pay him anything, nor recognise him.
45. What agents or sub-agents had you at Franklin? I had none; I had canvassers.
46. Who were the canvassers at Franklin? James Thomas, William Cuthbert.
47. Did you and Mr. Solomon and Cuthbert talk together about the election? Myself, Mr. Solomon, and the two canvassers, Thomas and Cuthbert, made a personal visit to most of the electors at the Franklin.
48. What canvassers were there at any other districts? At Victoria—Oates, Lucas, and Page.
49. Did you, Mr. Solomon, Oates, and Page have any conversation about the election? I am not aware; not in my presence.
50. Did Mr. Solomon know that Oates was a canvasser? Yes.
51. Did you render a faithful account to Mr. Solomon of your expenses? I showed him an account of the parties whom I considered entitled to payment as canvassers and scrutineers, and he made no objection to it.
52. How many canvassers had you altogether? About 7 I think. At the smaller outer polling-places I had none. I should think not more than 7.
53. Whom besides Oates and Cuthbert? Mr. Thomas, Mr. Cuthbert, Mr. James Lucas, Mr. Page, Mr. Oates. I do not recollect anybody else.
54. How many scrutineers had you at Franklin? Lloyd, Thomas, and Cuthbert.
55. And at Bruni? One.
56. Who appointed that one? I did. He was Samuel Young.
57. Were Pybus or Adams paid for their services as Scrutineers? No; not by me.
58. Did you give any one else money to pay them? No.
59. Were the men you mentioned to us all you paid? Yes, they were. [Copy of statement furnished to the Election Auditor put in.]
60. This amounts to £160 15s.? Included in the No. 1 Statement of personal expenses which under the Act is allowed to be paid by the Candidate.
61. What was your fee? £50.
62. Williamson, you say, did not act as Canvasser? You paid him £5? That was as Scrutineer.
63. Henry Watson, I see, was a voter in the District? He was.
64. How did you employ him? I had no special employment for him. I used his house as a Committee-room, and boarded and lodged there while I was at the Huon,—about a fortnight.
65. Was he canvassing? I am not aware.
66. Did you treat any of the voters at Watson's house? I did not.
67. Mr. Vince—do you remember him going there? I never saw him there.
68. Did you on any occasion offer Vince any money for his vote? I did not.
69. Did you give Vince any money on any account for the Election? I did not.
70. Did you give or offer George Lucas any money for his vote? No. I never saw him for 3 months previous to the Election. I never saw him while I was Agent, or Mr. Solomon a Candidate.

ANDREW WRIGHT *called in, sworn, and examined.*

71. *By Mr. Dobson.*—What is your name? Andrew Wright.
72. You live near Kingston, Brown's River, and are a farmer? Yes.
73. You were a voter at the last Huon Election? Yes.
74. Do you remember being at Kingston when the last election took place? Yes.
75. Did you see Mr. H. B. Evans there? Yes.
76. Under what circumstances? He said that he was canvassing for Mr. Solomon. Mr. Evans came on the night of Mr. Fisher's address at Kingston, and took me by the arm and led me away a bit from the door, and asked me whom I was going to vote for. I said Captain Fisher, and he said would not

I vote for Solomon. I said that would not be quite fair, after promising to vote for Mr. Fisher, to turn round to the other side; and he said if I voted for Mr. Solomon my expenses would be paid, and he put three sovereigns into my hand, and he told me if Mr. Solomon should be returned I should have two more. Then he drove off.

77. Did you see him again after that? No, I did not.

78. How far had you to travel from your house to the polling-place where you voted? A mile and a half.

79. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Where did this interview take place? At my own place.

80. Inside or outside of your house? Outside, in my yard.

81. What time was it? It was just about dusk. About five o'clock as near as I could guess.

82. What was the date of the interview? I do not know. I think it was about the 4th of last June.

83. How long before the Election? I think about a fortnight.

84. Who came with Mr. Evans to your place? I could not say. There was some person in the cart, which stopped about 30 or 40 yards from the house.

85. Did the person who drove Mr. Evans down remain in the cart all this time? Yes.

86. How far were you from the cart when you were conversing with Mr. Evans? About 30 yards.

87. Were you promised anything to vote for Mr. Fisher at the last Election? No.

88. Could the person who was in the cart have heard what passed between you and Mr. Evans? No, he could not.

89. Do you think the person in the cart could have seen it? No, I do not think he could.

90. What makes you think he could not see? He was not close enough. It was getting dusk at the time.

91. For all you know he might have seen it? He might.

92. When did you first make this circumstance known? Some time last month,—August.

93. You kept it to yourself, then, for some two months? Yes.

94. What time during the last month did you make it known? I think about the middle of the month.

95. To whom did you first make it known? To Capt. Lucas and Mr. Baynton.

96. They were Capt. Fisher's canvassers? Mr. Baynton was Mr. Fisher's canvasser.

97. What did you do with the sovereigns? I could not say.

98. Have you spent them? I think I put them in the bank with some more.

99. Do you mean with some more money earned in a similar way? No.

100. Is that the first occasion on which you have ever had money or other reward for your vote? Yes.

101. Do you remember a contest between Mr. Robertson and Mr. Evans some years ago? I do not.

102. Did you get anything for your vote on that occasion? I had not a vote.

103. *By Mr. Dobson.*—How long had you known Capt. Fisher? I had known him for many years.

104. Did you know anything of Mr. Solomon? I did not.

105. When did you first mention the fact of Mr. Evans having given you money to Capt. Lucas and Mr. W. Baynton? After the election.

106. *By Mr. Crowther.*—Having received the three sovereigns, whom did you vote for? For Capt. Fisher.

GEORGE LUCAS *called in, sworn, and examined.*

107. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is George Lucas, you live at Kingston, and are a farmer there now? Yes.

108. Do you know Mr. R. J. Edwards? Yes.

109. Did anything take place between you and him with reference to the last Huon Election? I received a letter from Mr. Edwards stating that Mr. Solomon would be a candidate for the Huon. It stated that he would be down and see me at a certain date, and that he would see every Elector in the District with me or alone. That was all. The letter is lost.

110. What next took place? On the 14th April Mr. Edwards came to me in my orchard. After a little conversation with reference to the Election, he stated that he had mentioned my name to Mr. Solomon and had told him that my services must be got. He pulled a pocket-book, I think, out of his pocket. He says I have made a memo. You will get £10 for your services, and £20 if Solomon gets in. I told him that I was independent. That in the event of Captain Fisher being a candidate nothing would induce me to vote against him. After a little conversation he asked the road to Mr. Lucas's, and I showed him the shortest road to it.

111. What was the money offered to you for? I understood that it was for my services, influence, and vote.

112. As to your services, how many voters were there in your District? There were 22 that would poll at Kingston.

113. Do you remember how many votes each Candidate got at that Polling-place? Fisher 10, Solomon 9.

114. Did you see anything of Mr. H. B. Evans before and after the Election? I saw him two or three times before the Election, and on the Election day.

115. What was he doing in the District? He appeared to be canvassing for Solomon.

116. From what do you judge that he was canvassing? He appeared to be taking a great interest in Mr. Solomon's Election. He went away in a cart.

117. How did you know that Evans was canvassing for Solomon? From different voters that I had been to.

118. Had you any conversation with Mr. Evans yourself? I bet him a new hat that Captain Fisher would have a majority at Hobart Town.

119. From anything which you saw Mr. Evans do or say, do you know whether he was a canvasser? I could not say.

120. What was Evans doing on the day of the election? He appeared to be acting as an agent for Mr. Solomon.

121. Was Mr. Solomon there? Not on the day of the election; nor Mr. Edwards.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1880.

GEORGE LUCAS, *examination continued.*

122. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Have you been in the habit of taking an active and leading part as a canvasser in Parliamentary Elections at Kingston? I have taken part in various elections, but a very active part in only one—that of Foster and Crowther.

123. Did you take a similar part as a canvasser in the elections in which Robertson and Evans were candidates? I did not take as active a part in Evans' and Robertson's elections as I did in that of Dr. Crowther and Foster.

124. Were your services on those occasions paid for? My expenses, but not my services.

125. Your assistance then at elections is generally sought after? At one or two, but not as a general rule.

126. I suppose it is considered a good thing then to secure your services at an election? I do not think so; I am afraid I did Captain Fisher more harm than good. I am not a popular man in Kingston; quite the reverse.

127. How much did you receive for your services at Mr. Foster's election? I think it was about £80 for the whole of the expenses.

128. How much did you get for your services at Mr. Robertson's election? About £6, and it cost me more than I received.

129. When did your interview take place with Mr. Edwards at Kingston? On the 14th April.

130. Was there at that time a vacancy in the Legislative Council? I think not; I think Mr. Robertson had not resigned.

131. Did you know as a matter of fact when Mr. Solomon's election did take place? About the 21st June.

132. Did you become a canvasser for Captain Fisher in the interval? I did. I began on the 15th April.

133. Did you at any time during the last election accompany Mr. Baynton as a canvasser? On one occasion I accompanied Captain Fisher and Mr. Baynton to North West Bay. Mr. Baynton is a magistrate.

134. Did you canvass Mr. James Lucas for his vote? I asked him for his vote.

135. Was Mr. Lucas the only elector whose vote you asked for Captain Fisher? No; I asked two or three.

136. Do you remember at your interview with Mr. Edwards his showing you a draft of an address? Is this [showing a paper] a copy of it? I cannot say whether that is it; he showed me something with Lawrence's name on it, but I told him not to show too much of his hand. [Paper addressed to Mr. Solomon read by Mr. McIntyre.]

137. You remember Mr. Edwards asking you to sign some document? I question whether he asked me to sign it.

138. Do you remember Mr. Edwards pointing out to you that if you did sign such a document it involved no pledge? I remember it now perfectly well.

139. And do you remember his adding further that this was only seeking to know Mr. Solomon's political views? I think I told Mr. Edwards that it was useless to show me an address, or argue with me any further, since I had made up my mind to vote for Captain Fisher if he became a candidate.

140. I think you stated yesterday that after some more conversation Mr. Edwards made the offer of £10 for your services, and £20 if Mr. Solomon got in? I told Mr. Edwards nothing would induce me to vote against Captain Fisher if he became a candidate.

141. But you had already told Mr. Edwards you would not vote for Mr. Solomon, had you not? I cannot remember.

142. But Mr. Edwards had shown you the requisition before this alleged offer, and you had refused to sign it? I do not remember whether it was before or after.

143. Will you swear that Mr. Edwards made that offer? I swear positively—he put great emphasis on the offer of £20 if Solomon got in.

144. Had you made no previous overtures to Mr. Edwards? None whatever.

145. Did you not at an early part of the interview say to Mr. Edwards “what about the sugar?” I did not. Everybody that knows me knows that I am above anything of the sort.

146. Did not Mr. Edwards tell you that he could not make any arrangement at that time as it depended on his report and the number of signatures that he could obtain to his requisition whether Mr. Solomon would stand or not? He never mentioned anything of that sort at all.

147. Did he not tell you that he supposed you would be dealt with no worse than at the last election? No such conversation ever took place.

148. Did you not then hold up your two hands twice with the fingers extended, without saying anything? I swear I did not.

149. You said in your examination yesterday that you understood the money was for your services, influence, and vote. Did Mr. Edwards during his interview with you mention anything about your vote? Nothing about my vote at all.

150. Did you then on all occasions when you took service as a Canvasser consider that you had sold your vote? No: I was never offered any money previously for my vote; and if I had been offered £10 or £20, I should have considered that I had sold my vote.

151. But you took £80 at Mr. Foster's election? I was offered no sum of money whatever. Mr. Foster told me to send my bill, and he would pay it for expenses.

152. Did his Agent make any arrangement with you before the Election? Not for any sum of money.

153. Then is the distinction this, that the exact sum must be named to make you consider you had sold your vote? Yes; if Mr. Foster or his Agent had offered me £80 previous to the election I should consider that I had sold my vote.

154. Is not that a distinction without a difference? Was there not a previous understanding at Mr. Foster's election that you were to get paid? I was to be paid my expenses whether he got in or not.

155. But there was no precise sum named, and it turned out afterwards to be £80? It might have been over or under. I was proprietor of an hotel at the time, and the hotel expenses amounted to a good deal, my own expenses did not amount to a great deal.

156. Did Mr. Edwards after that date in April ever afterwards speak to you about the Election? The next morning, at the *Retreat Inn*.

157. Could you tell us what took place at that interview? Very little; Mr. Edwards was very reserved, and I tried to draw him out—that is to ascertain how he had got on among the voters among whom he had been. He said very little.

158. You said you are not a popular man in the district? Did you tell Mr. Edwards, as a patting shot, that you would undo in a day all that he could do in a fortnight? I did: and I had seen a gentleman that very morning to undo all that he had been doing. I had received a telegram the night before that Captain Fisher was in the field: that was the reason.

159. Did you ever see Mr. Edwards with regard to the election after that morning? Yes; I saw Mr. Edwards with Mr. Solomon in the street at Kingston two or three days after Mr. Robertson resigned.

160. Did you have any conversation with them? None whatever. I don't think Mr. Edwards knew me; I was in my working rig.

161. Did you see Mr. Edwards on the day of the election at Kingston? I did not.

162. And you never had any conversation with him whatever since the last morning when you saw him at the *Retreat Hotel*, at Kingston? I have never seen him since.

163. *By Mr. Dobson.*—You stated in your previous examination that your meeting with Mr. Edwards took place on the 14th April, now you state the 4th; which is correct? I made a mistake in stating the 4th, it was the 14th, as I know from a telegram I received in the evening from Capt. Fisher.

164. Mr. McIntyre has suggested that you asked Mr. Edwards for money; is there any truth in it? Not a particle of truth in it; I told him I was independent of such a thing.

165. Then if Mr. Edwards were to state that you said “What about the sugar?” it was false? I should say it was a deliberate lie on the part of Edwards.

166. Did Edwards ask you to canvass for the whole district, or any particular part? He did not refer to any particular portion of the district.

167. You have said that you understood the money was offered to you for your services, influence, and vote? Tell us why you think that Edwards meant to pay you for your vote? By him saying £20 if Mr. Solomon gets in.

168. At this time were you canvassing? You were a supporter of Captain Fisher—were you canvassing for him? No.

169. Are you quite certain? I was not till next morning, then I began to canvass. I did canvass for him, after the receipt of the telegram.

170. Have you been paid by Capt. Fisher or by anybody for your services? Not by anybody.

171. As to the address which has been spoken of—are you quite sure that you did not sign it? I am quite sure; I think I told Mr. Edwards that I would never sign a requisition again.

172. You told Edwards that you would undo all that he had done? How did you mean—by *your* own influence? No; by Mr. Baynton's influence.

173. Was Mr. Solomon known or unknown in the district? He was unknown to me, and I believe to the majority of the electors of Kingston.

174. With regard to Foster's and Robertson's election, have you given the fullest information you can? Yes.

175. *By Mr. Crowther.*—In Mr. Foster's election you took a very active part as a canvasser, did you not? Yes; I had a motive in doing so.

[Copy of Address to Mr. Solomon put in.]

MR. LUCAS, *re-examined.*

176. *By Mr. Dodery.*—You say that when Mr. Evans drove away from Kingston, he went away in a cart. Can you say who drove him? I cannot swear who drove him. I know from the person who drove him—from his own mouth—It was Mr. Frederick Lucas.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY ANDREWARTHA, *called in, sworn, and examined.*

177. Your name is William Henry Andrewartha? You are a Mill-owner and Magistrate at Port Esperance? Yes.

178. Have you a vote for the Huon district? I have.

179. Do you know Mr. H. B. Evans? I know him well.

180. Was he canvassing at the last Huon Election for any person? If I am to take his own words, he was.

181. What took place between you and Mr. Evans with reference to the election? The first time I saw Mr. Evans and spoke to him with reference to the election was on the Saturday previous to the election. I met him on the wharf in Hobart Town. I said to him "I see you have got back into town again," and I made allusion to an electioneering squib which appeared some days previously as to his having gone electioneering. He said "yes, that is a most blackguard affair; but, however, I have driven half a dozen nails in Capt. Fisher's coffin since I have been away." We had some further conversation, in which he advocated Mr. Solomon's cause very strongly as against Capt. Fisher; and on the following Monday I was standing on the kerbing of the dock in Hobart Town. I saw Mr. Evans; he drew my attention to himself, and I looked towards him. He put his hands into the watch-pocket of his vest and he says "this is the stuff that will settle your man," meaning Capt. Fisher. I saw some 4 or 5 gold coins in his fingers. I said how many have you got? He did not reply as to the number. I put my hand and felt his pocket. He then left, and as he left me he turned and said "now don't say anything about this." I said "if you go scattering that sort of thing about the district and anything comes of it you may depend upon it I shall not keep my tongue silent." Since the election was over, last week I met him as I was coming down the Murray-street hill, and he said, "Well old fellow, we have beat you after all," and he made some allusion to Mr. Edwards, the Election Agent. I think, as well as I can remember, it was this—"Edwards thinks he got the votes, but I got two for his one." I have not seen him since.

182. What did you feel in his pocket? I felt a considerable bulk, but I did not see into his pocket.

183. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Are not you and Mr. Evans rival Mill-owners? We are engaged in the same trade. He has a mill in the same District.

184. On what terms are you with Mr. Evans? On pretty good terms. I have often advised him with respect to his mill, to help him out of his difficulties. There is no animus between us.

185. Did Mr. Evans offer you anything for your vote when he showed you the gold? He had better sense.

186. Did he try to influence you in any unfair way to vote for Mr. Solomon? No; not in any unfair way.

MR. JOHN HAMILTON, *called in, sworn, and examined.*

187. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is John Hamilton; you are a Merchant carrying on business in Hobart Town? Yes.

188. Do you remember having had any conversation with Mr. Solomon after the late Huon Election? In our conversation Mr. Evans's name came up, and in excuse for unpunctuality on Mr. Evans's part, I said I thought that Mr. Evans had spent a good deal of his time to serve Mr. Solomon in his election, and Mr. Solomon replied—That he had nothing to thank him for in the way of help or assistance—I suppose electioneering assistance; that he would have done better without him, or some such words.

189. Did Mr. Solomon speak of him as his Agent? No. The subject was unpunctuality as to his payments.

190. But Mr. Solomon said he could have done better without him. What did you understand by that? I understood that Evans was more of a hindrance than a help to him.

191. Knowing that Mr. Evans had been interested for Mr. Solomon, and hearing Mr. Solomon say he could have done better without Mr. Evans, do you still believe that he was not the agent, sub-agent, or canvasser for Mr. Solomon? I do.

192. In what capacity was he? He took an active friendly interest, that is all.

193. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Were not you in the interview with Mr. Solomon the first to mention that Mr. Evans had interested himself in Mr. Solomon's election? and that Mr. Solomon merely replied that he had done nothing, and that he could have done better without him? Yes.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1880.

MR. C. J. BARCLAY *called in, sworn, and examined.*

194. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Charles James Barclay? You are the Manager of the Commercial Bank? Yes.

195. Does Mr. Joseph Solomon keep his Banking account with you? He does.

196. More than one account? No.

197. Do you produce his account? I do.

198. Do you produce the cheques from the 8th June to 30th August? Yes.

199. Have you Mr. H. B. Evans' account? Yes [produced].

200. Have you the credit slips for that account? Yes [produced].

ROBERT VINCE *called in, sworn, and examined.*

201. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Robert Vince. You are a farmer at Longley, and were a voter at the last Huon election? Yes.

202. Had you any conversation with Mr. Edwards about the election? Not two words.

203. Edwards was canvassing for Solomon? I believe he was, but I did not ask him who he was canvassing for just at that minute.

204. What took place between you and Edwards before this election? We both met at the *Picnic Hotel*.

205. When was this? I do not know whether it was the 7th or 8th June. It was somewhere about that time. He came on the verandah where I was. He said "I believe you are Mr. Vince." I said "Yes." He asked me whether I was in the same humour as I was when I was laughing about the election in the town. I said "Yes."

206. What was he alluding to? We were chaffing in Hobart Town. I said "those who will give me £10 for my trouble in going down I will vote for them."

207. Was Edwards there? No.

208. How did he know? I could not say.

209. Who was present when you said that you would vote for any one who would give you £10 for going down? I could not say; there were so many.

210. What else took place between you and Mr. Edwards at the *Picnic Hotel*? Mr. Edwards said "come here," and took me round the corner and put 5 sovereigns into my hand, and walked round one way and I went the other, and as he was going away he said "there, that will pay you for your trouble if you go after or fetch anybody."

211. He never said a word to you about helping or canvassing before this? No, not until he gave me the money and said that would pay me for any trouble I went to.

212. What trouble had you promised to go to? I had not promised to go to any.

213. Mr. Edwards had not asked you to canvass? Not just then.

214. Nor afterwards? When it was all over I said I know one or two up N. W. Bay. I will send over to them. The weather was so bad that I could not send any one over.

215. When was all over? When we were coming away from the *Picnic*, about an hour and a half after he gave me the 5 sovereigns.

216. Will you swear that Edwards did not ask you to vote for Solomon before he gave you the money? He never asked me to the best of my recollection.

217. Do you remember stating to Mr. Fisher's solicitor that Edwards asked you to vote for Solomon before giving you the money? No.

218. You did make a statement to the solicitor of the evidence which you would give in this case? I did; but I did not know there would be any disturbance about the matter.

219. Did you not tell him that Edwards had given you the money to vote for Mr. Solomon? No: he asked me the question, and I said he had given it to me to pay my expenses.

220. Expenses of going to vote? I lost two days with a horse and cart.

221. Doing what? Driving down and back—17 miles.

222. Where did you vote? At the *Picnic*.

223. How long does it take to drive there? About an hour and a half.

224. And you got £5 for your trouble in going down to vote? Mr. Edwards said it was for my expenses.

225. That was a large sum for your expenses? Was not the vote thrown in? I had not made up my mind at the time whether I should vote for Mr. Fisher or Mr. Solomon.

226. Before you got that money had you not promised to vote for Captain Fisher and to do your best for him? I could not say. I did not take any particular notice. Did not take the matter seriously. I do not think I promised him. I did not take any notice at the time.

227. Did you promise Captain Fisher to do anything for him? I could not say now.

228. It is not long ago? Why don't you remember? I did not give it a thought just at the moment what did pass.

229. Do you remember a person named Nolan going with you to Captain Fisher's office to talk about the election? Did you promise on that occasion to do anything for Captain Fisher or to help him? I might have said that I would give him my vote, but I did not say anything about pledging myself.

230. Do you know Oates, of the Huon? Yes.

231. Did he canvass you for your vote on Solomon's behalf? He came up to my place, and asked me whether I would come down to the *Picnic* that afternoon. I said I did not know whether I could spare time to go down.

232. This was after you had got the £5? No, it was before.

233. Did you tell Oates that you were going to vote for Mr. Fisher? No, not that I know of. I told Mr. Oates that I had not made up my mind as to whom I should vote for as Captain Fisher had told me to vote for the best man.

234. You said in town that you would vote for any man who would give you £10 for your trouble? Yes, I did.

235. Whether he was the best man or not? I do not know how to answer such a question.

236. You said you could not recollect whether Mr. Edwards had asked you to vote before putting the five sovereigns into your hand? Do you still adhere to that? I believe he did not.

237. Is it possible that he might have done so without your recollecting it? I have had too much trouble lately to recollect.

238. Have you seen Mr. Solomon or Mr. Evans since you made the statement to Captain Fisher's solicitor? Not till this morning. I saw Mr. Evans outside the door.

239. Has anybody talked to you about the evidence you were to give to-day? Nobody, except Mr. Dobson. Mr. Dobson asked me whether I did not get £15 from Mr. Solomon. I said I wished I had. All I got for my trouble was £5.

240. You would have taken £15 if you could have got it? According to what I have seen everybody takes what he can get.

241. You swear that no person at all except Mr. Dobson has spoken to you about your evidence to-day? Not that I am aware of. No person has dictated to me what I was to say or anything of the sort.

242. Did Oates speak to you? I have not seen Mr. Oates for I know not when.

243. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Was the day on which you met Mr. Edwards at the *Picnic* the day on which Mr. Solomon held his public meeting there? I believe it was.

244. Were there a number of persons present on that occasion? There might have been twenty or five and twenty, or perhaps more.

245. Did you make any secret then of your intending to vote for Mr. Solomon? I could not say. I do not think there was any secret in it. I never kept the thing secret at all.

246. Did you state to any one in the committee-room that you intended to vote for Mr. Solomon? I could not say.

247. How far do you live from the *Picnic*? Eight and a half miles or thereabouts.

248. Did any one go with you to the public meeting that day? Yes.

249. Who? I took my two sons down. No one else that I know of.

250. Did any body ride there with you? I do not think they did. I do not recollect.

251. Do you remember Mr. Oates going with you? Yes, he did go; I forgot.

252. Do you remember telling Mr. Oates that you would go over to N.W. Bay and canvass, and find a cart on the polling day? I could not say.

253. You said just now that you would go over if you could find time during the week? I would have gone if it had not rained.

254. Would that have been to canvass for Mr. Solomon? I was going to canvass one or two.

255. Supposing you or your son had gone, how long would you have been? It would have been a hard day's work. Very few people would like to drive over with a horse and cart.

256. I suppose it might as well have taken two days as one? I might have stopped all night if I had gone.

257. Do you think that £5 was a large fee for going to N.W. Bay? I would not do it for £5; I could earn better money at home.

258. Did you see Mr. Edwards at the Franklin during the election? No. I never was at the Franklin during the election.

259. *By Mr. Dobson.*—You have already told us that the £5 was given to you for your trouble in going to vote? I expect it was.

260. It was not given to you for canvassing? No.

261. You were not a paid canvasser of Edwards? I never agreed with him. I have told you what passed. I did not think there was any harm in taking the money.

262. *By Mr. Dodery.*—You made a remark in Hobart Town in a joking way that whoever would give you £10 you would vote for him; and when you met Mr. Edwards at the *Picnic* he asked you were you in the same humour; I think your reply was "Yes;" that he then gave you five sovereigns: would you have gone to vote if you had not had those sovereigns? I do not think I should have gone if I had not.

263. *By Dr. Crowther.*—Is it customary to take money in the Huon for voting? Yes; there was plenty of money flying about at Dr. Crooke's election.

264. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Do you remember telling Mr. Oates on the day of the meeting, as you were going over to the *Picnic*, that you would go over to North West Bay some time during the week, if you could find time, and employ your horse and cart on the polling day? That was just as I was coming away from the *Picnic* to go home.

PETER GOOD called in, sworn, and examined.

265. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Peter Good? You are a farmer in the Huon district, and you were a voter at the last Huon election? Yes.

266. Do you know Henry Watson, a publican at the Franklin? Yes.

267. Did Mr. Solomon's committee meet at his house? I cannot say.

268. Do you know whether Mr. Watson was canvassing for Mr. Solomon? He asked me.

269. Do you know of his asking any other persons to vote? No, not to my knowledge.

270. Did you hear that he had asked any others to vote? Yes.

271. What took place between Watson and yourself about the election? He said, "I know you promised Fisher your vote. I do not want you to vote for Solomon, but get your ballot-paper and put it in the ballot-box clean, and if it comes out clean I will give you £5."

272. What did you do on that occasion? I said "No," and went away, and voted for Capt. Fisher.

273. Did you see Watson on the day of the election? Yes.

274. Was he in company with Edwards, or Solomon, or Evans when you saw him? He was in company of no person.

275. Did you see what he was doing or where he was on the day of the election? He was walking about the street in front of the Polling Office.

276. Did you see him take any voters to the Poll? I did not; it was late when I got down, after 3 o'clock.

277. Were you at a meeting held by Captain Fisher? Yes.

278. Did you see Watson there? Yes.

279. Which side did he take? He spoke on Mr. Solomon's side.

280. Did he take any other part in the meeting? Not that I am aware of.

281. Was Captain Fisher interrupted at the meeting when he was talking? Very little; he was interrupted once or twice.

282. Had Watson anything to do with the interruption? He had not.

283. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—What was the date of the meeting? The night of the 21st June.

284. I suppose there were a great many other voters there besides Watson? Yes.

285. Did you at any time before the election receive a letter from a Mr. James Gray with reference to the election? I did not, neither before nor since.

286. Did Mr. Gray address the meeting? Only in his own defence.

287. After the public meeting, did you go to Watson's, the *Lady Franklin Hotel*? I did.
288. Did any other voters accompany you there? There were several others there.
289. Was Mr. Gray there? Yes.
290. Did he treat you and the others there to some refreshment? He treated me along with the rest to some drink.
291. Do you remember seeing Mr. Gray with a bottle of brandy in his hand? I do.
292. And you recollect him saying that that election was to be conducted on teetotal principles? I heard him say so.
293. How long did you stay there—you and the other electors? I dare say we were an hour there talking and drinking.
294. I suppose you all got very jolly and comfortable? Some of us got pretty jolly; I was myself a little jolly; I don't deny it.
295. Did Mr. Gray keep strictly to his temperance principles that night? I never knew him to be a teetotaler. I have known him for thirty years, and never knew him to be a teetotaler.
296. Did you pay for any part of the drink that night? No, I did not.
297. Did you get any money from Mr. Gray at that election? Neither before nor since, nor on any occasion.
298. Have you ever stated publicly that you had got two sovereigns from Mr. Gray, and that you intended to spend one of them? Never; I deny it.
299. Then if any witness comes here and makes such a statement what would you say? I would hurl it back in his teeth.
300. *By Mr. Dobson.*—You say that a lot of voters were there drinking: was Mr. Edwards or Mr. Solomon among them? I did not see them.
301. Were any of the people there who had supported Solomon at the meeting? Yes.
302. Who else called for liquor besides Mr. Gray? Several others.
303. Do you remember any others—any of Mr. Solomon's supporters? I do not; there were so many people there.
304. Was Mr. Gray much elevated? A little; he was so before the meeting.
305. Did you see him at any of Captain Fisher's meetings after that night? No.
306. *By Chairman.*—Was there any other meeting after that which you have referred to? Not to my knowledge.
307. *By Mr. Crowther.*—Whose interest was Mr. Gray advocating? No one's.
308. *By Chairman.*—Was he known to be advocating Captain Fisher's interest? Not to my knowledge; he did not solicit a vote from me for Captain Fisher.
309. Were you near the polling-place repeatedly during the day? Undoubtedly not.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1880.

CHARLES COLEMAN *called in, sworn, and examined.*

310. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Charles Coleman, you are a farmer living at the Franklin? Yes.
311. Do you know Watson the publican, on the Franklin? Yes.
312. Tell me what took place between you and Watson relating to the late election at the Huon? He asked me if I would promise my vote. I did not feel disposed to tell him, so in answer I said no. Then he asked me if I would take £5. I said "no I would not." He said "that is all I have got to say."
313. Was Watson canvassing for Mr. Solomon? Not that I am aware of.
314. Before this had you said to anybody that you would vote for Fisher? Mr. Fisher asked me whether I would support him in the coming election. I said it was likely.
315. Did you not give a reason for saying that you would vote for Captain Fisher? I had my own reasons. I thought he was the best candidate.
316. When Watson asked you whether you would take £5 for your vote, was that for Captain Fisher? He never mentioned either candidate.
317. After that did you know whom he supported? I heard him expressing himself in the Mechanics' Institute that he would support Solomon.
318. Then did you see Mr. Watson canvassing for Mr. Solomon after that? No, I did not.
319. Did you tell anybody, either Mr. Peter Good or Mr. Fisher, that Watson had offered you £5 to vote for Mr. Solomon? I did not.
320. Did you tell any one that Watson had offered you £5 to vote? I did not.
321. What did you tell anybody about it? I was standing among the crowd when the conversation took place, and said I might have had £5 to vote for Mr. Solomon if I had liked.

322. Do you know any person who said that he had got £2 in cash and £3 in trees to vote for Mr. Solomon?

[Question objected to. Committee deliberate. Objection overruled.]

Yes, I do.

323. Who was it? It was Mr. Thomson. I do not know his christian name. It was the person outside in the other room.

324. When and where was this? Yesterday, in the next room.

325. How do you know you might have got the £5 from Mr. Watson? I thought so from what Mr. Watson said afterwards at the Institute.

326. Was it a meeting at the Institute before the election? Yes.

JOHN THOMSON *called in, sworn, and examined.*

327. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is John Thomson, you are a farmer at the Sandfly? Yes.

328. You are a voter for the Huon district? Yes.

329. Were you canvassed for your vote by one of Mr. Solomon's agents? Not by one of his agents; I went down to the *Picnic* at Victoria to tender for some contracts, and I met a great many electors there. They advised me to vote for Mr. Solomon, all of them.

330. Did anybody offer you £5 or any money in order to vote for Mr. Solomon? They did not offer me any money for my vote.

331. What for then? Mr. Oates gave me £3 to pay my expenses, and said he would very likely want the use of my horse and cart.

332. What for? He never mentioned what it was for.

333. Did you lend your horse and cart? No, he never came for it. I walked.

334. Did you get paid your expenses, then, for going to vote? I reckoned that the £3 was for my expenses.

335. You said it was for the loan of your horse and cart? He said he would very likely want the use of the horse and cart, but he never came for it.

336. Did you receive any trees? Yes, I did. I wanted to buy some at that time of Mr. Oates. He said he had not any himself, but his son had some.

337. Did you get them? I got them from his son.

338. Have you paid for them? No, he made me a present of them—the son. Mr. Oates was there when I went for them at the mill. They were grown at the mill.

339. Where did the trees come from? From Mr. Thomas Oates's farm.

340. Did Oates ask you to vote for Mr. Solomon? I would not be sure, but I don't think he did.

341. Have you told any person that you were offered £2 in money and £3 in trees to vote for Mr. Solomon? No, I have not; I do not think so.

342. Have you told any person that you have been offered any money or anything to vote for Mr. Solomon? No, I don't think that ever I did. I took it for expenses; besides I thought he would call upon me for my horse and cart.

343. Do you know Mr. Coleman? Yes.

344. Did you not tell him only yesterday that you had been paid £2 in cash and £3 in trees? [Question altered to £3 in cash and £2 in trees.] I never said that I had been paid that for my vote. I think I said it was for my expenses.

345. If Mr. Coleman has sworn that you had told him you had been paid something for your vote has he stated what was false? No, he has not sworn what was false about my telling him that I had received some money and some apple trees, but I am almost certain that nothing was mentioned about my vote.

346. He has sworn that it was for your vote? He is wrong about my vote, for I am sure the vote was never mentioned.

347. What did you tell him it was for? There was nothing said about what it was for.

348. You said just now it was for your expenses? I do not think there was anything mentioned what it was for.

349. Then you don't remember whether you told him what it was for? No, I don't, but I am certain almost there was nothing said about my vote.

350. I ask you on your oath whether you have not told somebody in Hobart Town that you received £5 for your vote for Mr. Solomon? I said I had received £5 from Mr. Oates, but not for my vote. I have told them I received some money. I may have told them in chaffing that I have received £5 for my vote. I believe I did tell them so.

351. You told Mr. Elliot the corn dealer in Macquarie-street that you had received £5 to vote for Mr. Solomon, and that you would take £5 every week if there was an election? I may have said so when he was chaffing me. I am almost sure I did. I think I was a little the worse for liquor.

352. Have you a cart and horse of your own? Yes.

353. At the time that you were given the trees and the money—of your own—before the election? Yes.

354. Which you could have used for Mr. Oates? Yes. I could have used them.

355. Were you using the horse in the cart at that time? No. I usually borrow my brother's or my brother-in-law's.

356. How far had you to go to Kingston? Between 10 or 11 miles—I think about 10 from where I live now.

357. Do you think you were justified in keeping the money given to you by Oates when you did no work for it? Yes I do, for my expenses in going over to vote, and trouble and loss of time.

358. Did you keep it as payment for that? Yes.

359. You have said something about Captain Fisher giving you 30s.? Will you explain how you came to receive that money, who paid it to you, and what you did for it? Mr. John Hay came to my place. I asked him "what brings you round this way." He said "I am electioneering." I think it was about 3 o'clock in the day. He said "I have come to you, John, to put you on your guard,—some of Mr. Solomon's people will be likely to be round with money to you. If they offer you any, collar it, and vote for Captain Fisher." He said "I want you to take me to town to-night. I will pay you for it." He had been to Vince's, and could not get a conveyance there, and walked over to my place. He got a conveyance from me, and I drove him to Hobart Town.

360. How far was it? Fifteen miles. It was pouring hard when we started.

361. What time was it when you got to Captain Fisher's house? It was about 9 I think.

362. Who paid you for your trouble? Mr. Hay gave me half a sovereign. He may have asked Captain Fisher for a pound, which was given to me.

363. Did you hear Mr. Hay say to Captain Fisher that he wanted to pay you, but had not enough? I can't remember whether he did or not. He may have done so.

364. Was that a fair payment for your trouble? I think I said I was satisfied.

365. Did you know whether Mr. Hay was coming to town on general business as well as on the business of the election? I cannot recollect whether he told me anything about it.

366. Did you have to borrow a horse that night? Yes, I borrowed my brother-in-law's. My own had no shoes.

367. Was that 30s. the money you alluded to as having been given by Captain Fisher to induce any person to vote? That was the money I meant.

368. Did you stay in town that night? Had you to pay your expenses and stabling for your horse? Yes.

369. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—You say Mr. Hay gave you half a sovereign? Did he ask you whether that was enough? No; I do not think he did. I think he asked Captain Fisher whether he had a pound on him, and after he had given me the pound I think he asked me whether that was enough. I said to Mr. Hay "I thought you were only going to give me 10s." This was after Captain Fisher gave me the pound. Mr. Hay said it would take all that for expenses in town.

370. You did not expect I suppose to receive more than 10s.? Of course I expected to get whatever they would give me.

371. Would you have been satisfied with the 10s. which Mr. Hay gave you? I suppose I should, because Mr. Hay was a friend, and I had known him a long time, and worked for him; but I should never have asked for any more.

372. When you got this pound from Captain Fisher, did Captain Fisher say anything about your vote? Yes, he asked me to vote for him; and I promised to vote for him. It might not have been at the time when he gave me the pound; it was the same night, and after he had given me the pound. It was when I was leaving his house.

373. Did he give you any directions or any hints as to what you were to do with Mr. Solomon or his people? Captain Fisher told me "if any of Mr. Solomon's agents come to you, take the money and sell him; he has no right to buy your birthright." I think those were the words.

374. Then I think you told us you went in and had supper with Captain Fisher? Yes.

375. Was it during the course of the supper that he gave you these directions? No, it was in front of his house, on the pavement.

376. And then you promised him your vote? I did until I went home, but the electors there persuaded me to vote for Mr. Solomon.

377. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Did you not say that you would take money from Mr. Solomon's people and vote for Captain Fisher? No, I did not; but they wanted me to do it. I might have said so to please them.

378. You were a friend of Mr. Hay's, and you promised to support Captain Fisher before you were paid the £3 in cash and £2 in trees? Yes, I partly promised him that I would, the same night.

379. But you had promised Mr. Hay before you got to Captain Fisher's house? I cannot be sure about that; I suppose he thought I would. I do not recollect making him a real promise.

380.—But if you had promised a man to give him your vote you would consider yourself justified in breaking the promise? Oh yes! my word I would.

381. *By Mr. Dodery.*—The night you took Mr. Hay to town, was that before you got the £3 from Mr. Oates? Yes, it was before.

382. You said that you went to Victoria about some contracts, and the electors there advised you to vote for Solomon: what day was that? It was the Saturday before the election.

383. Was that the same day that Mr. Oates gave you the £3? Yes, it was the same day.

384. Was there any conversation between you and Mr. Oates that led up to his giving you the £3? I cannot say.

385. If you had not got this £3 and the trees would you have gone to vote? No, I do not think I should unless my expenses were paid.

386. *By the Chairman.*—While you were at supper, did Captain Fisher stand outside holding your horse in the rain? I did not take particular notice, but I suppose Capt. Fisher was outside.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1880.

MR. H. B. EVANS *called in, sworn, and examined.*

387. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Hubert Beard Evans, you are a mill proprietor? Yes.

388. You took an interest in the late election at the Huon at which Captain Fisher and Mr. Solomon were candidates? Very great.

389. Have you read the evidence, so far as it has been printed, in this case? No; I have not seen it.

390. You canvassed for Mr. Solomon at the election? As a volunteer for the late election.

391. When did you first begin to canvass? Some time in May, I think.

392. And did you continue to canvass till the day of election? Till the day of election.

393. Were you one of those who induced Mr. Solomon to come out? I was.

394. That was before April, was it not? I think it was in May.

395. In what districts did you canvass? Kingston, Hobart Town, Victoria—generally for all the districts. I did not visit each district separately, but personally I only canvassed the electors in the town as I met them.

396. You went to Victoria to canvass? Yes.

397. How many times did you go down there? Only once.

398. Did you see voters there as a canvasser? I did.

399. Did you go to the Upper Huon? Not as a canvasser, but as a volunteer. I told Mr. Solomon I would do all I could to forward his interests.

400. Then it was to forward Mr. Solomon's interests that you visited the Upper Huon? On my own account too. I had private business relations at Victoria on that occasion. I went down to secure a cargo of shingles for the barque *Planter*.

401. You saw Rodman, W. Wright, and Wallace at the Upper Huon? Yes, at an auction sale at the *Picnic*.

402. And when you were canvassing at Kingston did you see Slough and Wright on behalf of Mr. Solomon? Not on behalf of Mr. Solomon. The ulterior object was to secure their votes, but I did not do it at the request of Mr. Solomon or his agents.

403. How many more people did you see? Everybody in the district I could find.

404. How many times did you go to Kingston to canvass? I think I went twice.

405. And where did you put up when you were there? At the *Réreat*.

406. That was where Mr. Edwards put up? I do not know where he put up.

407. Do you swear that you do not know where Mr. Edwards put up when he was at Kingston? I do swear.

408. How much time did you spend do you suppose in Mr. Solomon's interests? Two months I suppose, off and on.

409. Were you paid anything for canvassing and interesting yourself in Mr. Solomon's behalf? Not a cent.

410. Did Mr. Solomon expect you to do it for nothing? I presume he did. In business depression in times past—say two years ago—Mr. Solomon assisted me materially by releasing me from the interest on £1500. I owed him £3000 on the barque *Pet*, and he did not exact the interest on the whole, but released me from the payment of the interest on £1500 while the depression lasted.

411. When was that? About 2 years ago.

412. Then on account of Mr. Solomon's kindness to you, did you tell him that you would do your best for him? No, not on that occasion.

413. Did you tell Mr. Solomon, as a volunteer canvasser that you would act for him? Yes: not act for him, but further his interests.

414. When was that? I think it was when I induced him to come forward. We had a conversation as to what support he was likely to get, and what support I could get for him, having a large influence in the Huon.

415. Have you experience in election matters? Yes: I have been a volunteer for about 20 years. I never applied to principal or agent for a penny for my services.

416. Did you from time to time have a chat with Mr. Solomon as to how his prospects were getting on? Only about twice after the Writ was issued: very little was done before that. I did not go with him on any of his tours.

417. Did you assist him with your advice and encouragement, and influence? Yes: I think I told him on one occasion that I thought his election was pretty secure, and that I thought he would be returned.

418. I suppose you consider yourself a man with as much experience in election matters as Mr. Edwards? In outside matters—such as canvassing, soliciting votes, but not in “office” work or details, or the tricks that are practised—if there are any—at elections.

419. On the day of the election you were at Kingston looking after matters there? Yes.

420. Who else was there on Mr. Solomon’s behalf? I could not say, of my own knowledge.

421. Did you send off any report to Mr. Edwards or Mr. Solomon? Yes: I sent a telegram of the result of the Poll to Mr. Solomon or Mr. Edwards—I cannot say which.

422. Who asked you to do that? Nobody. I sent it because they would be anxious to hear the result of the Poll.

423. Had you other communications with Mr. Edwards as to the progress of the election? No: I had not—no written communications.

424. Did any letters pass between you? I might have written to Mr. Edwards suggesting that if he canvassed he might secure certain votes.

425. I suppose you heard from Mr. Edwards occasionally? Not by letter. I think I wrote to Mr. Edwards from Town once that if there were any letters for me at the Franklin to redirect them to Town. I am not sure whether I wrote or sent now. This was the same letter that I alluded to before.

426. That was the only letter you wrote to him? I think I could swear that.

427. Then it was only in conversation that you talked to Edwards about the election? If I met him in the street I might have talked to him about the election. It was very natural that I should do so.

428. Was it not more natural that you should talk to Edwards when you were both interested in the election? Certainly.

429. Edwards recognised you as a canvasser, and you recognised him as a canvasser? No: but of course he knew that I was interesting myself in Mr. Solomon’s behalf.

430. Do you swear that you did not tell him from time to time how you were getting on? I would not swear that I did tell him.

431. Who took you down to Kingston? Fisher’s coach. I went twice by it.

432. Who paid your expenses? I paid them myself.

433. You did not go down to Kingston on the morning of the election in Fisher’s coach? No: I hired a cab.

434. Who paid for the cab? I did.

435. What did it cost you? Two Pounds.

436. How much more money did you spend on the election? I could not possibly tell you, not very much though. I am pretty free at election times if I have any money with me. I did not keep any record.

437. Was it within £50? I could not say.

438. Was it over £50? I could not say; it certainly did not exceed it.

439. Have you told anybody that you spent £100? I have told people that the time, cost, and so on would come to more than £150.

440. What do you mean by “so on?” Taking an elector and standing a bottle of wine. I treated lots of outsiders who had nothing to do with the election, and some who had. I felt quite free to do what I thought proper.

441. Ale I suppose was a favourite drink? Yes, ale and spirits.

442. Were the voters all satisfied with drink? I do not understand the question. I presume they were quite satisfied; I heard no complaints.

443. Did you offer any voter money? Yes.

444. What for? To vote for Mr. Solomon.

445. Who was that? A man of the name of Wright. He said Fisher had offered him £2 for his vote,—if I would give him £3 he would vote for Solomon.

446. Did he take the £3? He did, and voted for Fisher.

447. Did you promise him £2 more if Solomon were returned? I do not think there was anything distinctly understood about it.

448. Why did you not offer him more than £3? Because I had not the money. I would have paid him £10 if I had had the money.

449. Was there any other voter you paid moneys to? I do not remember.

450. Did you offer Wright of the Upper Huon any money to vote? No.

451. Did you offer any to William Slough? No.

452. Did you not offer him £5? I never offered him a cent.

453. Did you give his wife any money? Yes, I gave Mrs. Slough a couple of pounds for their expenses down.

454. You gave that to her and her husband for their expenses from Hobart Town to Brown's River? He was a very old man, and his expenses were more than usual, and he had to leave the day before and stay at Brown's River all night.

455. How did he go down? I think by the coach.

456. How did Mrs. Slough go down? I took her down by the cab next morning.

457. The cab that you paid for? Yes, she told me that Slough had gone down with George Lucas, Fisher's agent, and had taken him to his house, and that he had offered him £3 for his vote for Fisher. Subsequently she told me she could not get it.

458. Did you not give Mrs. Slough £4 in all—£2 afterwards? I did not. I said I would give her a dress if Slough voted for Solomon and Solomon was returned.

459. You asked her to use her influence with Slough to make him vote for Solomon? I did not; I did not think there was any doubt about it.

460. But you paid her £2, and shepherded her in a cab the next morning? I did not shepherd her.

461. You looked after her? I should be sorry to do so.

462. Was there any other voter that you gave or offered money or anything to to vote for Solomon? I do not remember.

463. Will you swear there was not? I would not swear.

464. Did you not make an application to Mr. Solomon or Mr. Edwards to pay you something for your expenses or what you had done for the election? I did not—not for a shilling.

465. Or to pay other people? I made application to Mr. Edwards to pay a small account I had at Lucas's at Brown's River, and he refused to do it.

466. Will you swear that you have not received any money from any person on account of what you have done for Mr. Solomon? I do.

467. Did Edwards refuse to pay your bill on the ground that it was too much? No, I had no instructions to incur the debt.

468. Did you not expect that you would be paid for the money you had spent and for your services? No, I did not look for anything of the sort.

469. Then why did you send in this account to Mr. Edwards to pay? I had not the money to pay it myself, otherwise I would have paid it.

470. Then you only asked this to be paid as a loan? If it had been paid it would have been paid as an electioneering expense.

471. Did you complain to any person that you had not been paid on account of what you had done for Solomon? Certainly not. This might have been said when Lucas's claim was rejected. I might have said, "I thought that might have been paid."

472. What was the bill for? Refreshments, lodgings, and cart hire.

473. Did any of the voters at Kingston send a letter to Mr. Solomon to say that you had done your best for him and that you deserved credit? Yes, it was in consequence of a rumour afloat that I had got tipsy and was drunk nearly the whole time at Kingston. Mr. Solomon was annoyed, and said he had better have trusted to a paid agent than have trusted to me. He felt that I had neglected to carry out what I had voluntarily undertaken to do for him.

474. Was it reported that you were tipsy on the day of the election at Kingston? Yes, I suppose it was.

475. What were you to have done on that day? Nothing at all that I know of, only I promised to be at Brown's River; certainly not to distribute any money.

476. Did you tell any person that you had got £50 to go canvassing? I did not. It was a gross untruth.

477. Do you know who were canvassers at Brown's River, or any of them? I do not.

478. Three Hut Point? I do not think there were any; I do not know; there might have been. I did not appoint any scrutineers or canvassers at Three Hut Point, Barnes's Bay, or Kingston, or ask any persons to act as such.

479. Did Mr. Solomon allow you any overdue interest on the *Pet*? I had paid the interest up to a certain point, but there was £160 due at the Cornwall Insurance Office (Webster's), which Mr. Solomon paid, and that reduced it to 8 per cent. instead of 16—8 per cent. interest and 8 per cent. insurance. It was 18 months or 2 years ago.

480. Is there anything due now? Yes, but I shall have to pay it before the vessel leaves the port.

481. Have you been paid or allowed any money by Mr. Solomon or Mr. Edwards since Mr. Solomon came into the field? Not one shilling.

482. *By Mr. Dodery.*—You know Mr. Andrewartha? Yes.

483. Do you recollect having a conversation with him on the Saturday previous to the election? I do not know whether it was the Saturday; I had a conversation with him previous to the election, at the wharf, in Hobart Town.

484. Did you say to him that during your canvass you had driven half a dozen nails in Capt. Fisher's coffin? I may have said so.

485. What did you mean by that? I do not know that I meant anything particular by it, any more than that I had influence in the district.

486. Did it mean that you had secured some votes that Capt. Fisher would expect? I dare say it did.

487. By what means did you secure those votes? By arguments and persuasions, pointing out the disparity between the men.

488. Was it by buying votes or promises? No, certainly not, beyond what I have stated.

489. On the Monday before the election did you see Mr. Andrewartha, and take out of your watch or waistcoat pocket some gold coins and show them, and say, "This is the stuff that will settle your man?" No, I did not; I am quite sure about it. I might have said "That is the stuff that will settle your man," but not in the way in which it is put. I saw Andrewartha near the New Zealand steamboat office. I think he was talking to a man of the name of Pearson. I was in company with John Turner, of the Old Market; and I think Turner said to me, "There is Andrewartha, let us go over and have some fun with him;" and just as we approached him Turner nudged me and said, "Do you think it would be right if we were to roll two casks of beef on board his barge?" Then Pearson was appealed to if he thought it would be correct. With that Andrewartha gave me a friendly tap on the chest. I had money in my waistcoat pocket. He made some remarks about its being election times and things being prosperous, and I believe I may have made some such remark. In this conversation with John Turner there were several present—Webb the butcher, Andrewartha, Turner, and William Pearson. The remark was made in chaff.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1880.

MR. R. PYBUS *called in, sworn, and examined.*

490. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Richard Pybus: you are living at Storm Bay: you are a farmer there? Yes.

491. Were you employed in the late election—Mr. Solomon's and Capt. Fisher's? Yes, as scrutineer at Barnes' Bay.

492. By whom? By Mr. Edwards, who sent to me by Mr. Samuel Young for me to act as scrutineer.

493. Who paid you? Mr. Young.

494. How much? Two pounds.

495. What duties had you? I was there to see that the election was carried on in a proper manner. I acted as scrutineer for Mr. Solomon.

496. How many other scrutineers were there? Mr. Samuel Young.

497. How many voters were there? Four.

498. Of whom you and Young were two? Yes.

499. Then you and Young were paid two guineas each to see that two voters voted properly? I do not know what Mr. Young received, I only know what I received.

500. Did you canvass Adams and Johnston to vote for Mr. Solomon? I did.

501. The only two voters besides yourself and Young? Yes.

502. By whose instructions? By no one's instructions.

503. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—How many voters did you say? Four, that is the whole number.

504. Had Capt. Fisher any scrutineers there? None whatever.

505. Do you know Mr. Johnston? Yes.

506. Was he one of the voters? Yes.

507. Was he acting in any way for Capt. Fisher as a scrutineer? He was asked if he would be a scrutineer for Capt. Fisher, but he declined.

508. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Did any one ask him on behalf of Capt. Fisher? No.

MR. THOMAS HOWARD *called in, sworn, and examined.*

509. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Thomas Howard, you are a licensed victualler in Hobart Town at the *Lloyd's Hotel*? Yes.

510. Have you a cab and horses that you let out for hire occasionally? Yes.

511. Were they employed at the late election at the Huon? Yes.

512. What did you do at Mr. Solomon's election? I took my cab to Brown's River. I did not go with it.

513. Who went down in the cab? I don't know.

514. And who engaged the cab? Mr. Edwards spoke to me about the cab, but it was sent for by Mr. Evans.

515. What did Mr. Edwards say to you? He said he thought he should want the cab on the day of election.

516. Did you agree to let him have it? Yes.

517. What was the price to be? I charged Mr. Edwards £3 for it. I made no agreement.
518. Did Evans go to *Lloyd's Hotel* first? Yes: I think he came to my place, and said he wanted the cab. I won't swear.
519. Did you have any further conversation with Evans about it before or afterwards? Yes, I had a conversation with him.
520. What took place? He gave me £2, and a little time after Mr. Edwards gave me £1. That was the £3 that I mentioned.
521. Did you get this cheque [showing one]? No. I never received a cheque: it was paid in cash, to the best of my knowledge.
522. Then the money you received from Edwards and Evans was for the cab, on the day of election? Yes.
523. When Edwards paid you the £1, did he know that Evans had paid you the £2? He did know.
524. How did he know? I told him so.
525. Did he make any demur to paying you the money? No: not the slightest.
526. What was the £3 charged for? For the hire of the cab: for going to Brown's River and driving about.
527. Did you tell Evans or Edwards what the charge was for? Yes, I told them that the horses had been driven about, and that they came home very tired.
528. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Do you remember applying to Mr. Edwards in the first place for the hire of the cab, and he refused to pay you? I do not remember.
529. Do you remember complaining to Mr. Edwards that Mr. Evans had only paid you £2 instead of £3? I do.
530. Do you remember Mr. Edwards then telling you that rather than that you should lose the money he would pay it out of his own pocket? Yes, I do.
531. When Mr. Edwards spoke to you about the cab, did he say anything more than that it was possible he might want a cab? He did not. I told him I had two if he should be in want of them.
532. And did Mr. Edwards at that time say anything about Mr. Evans to you? Not a word.
533. *By Mr. Dobson.*—You have told us that Mr. Edwards engaged this cab from you? Mr. Edwards spoke to me about the cab at first, and Mr. Evans sent for it.
534. To whom did you look for payment? I looked to Mr. Edwards for payment.
535. The man driving the cab was your servant? Yes.
536. Why did Mr. Edwards demur to paying you the extra £1? Mr. Evans said the £2 was all the money he had; then I went to Edwards, who said "he did not think the charge too much, and he would pay the £1 out of his own pocket rather than that I should lose it."

ROBERT BLACKWOOD *called in, sworn, and examined.*

537. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Robert Blackwood, you live at Long Bay, and trade on the river with a craft named the *Huon Pine*? Yes.
538. You were a voter at the late election for the Huon? Yes.
539. Were you employed in any capacity at Three Hut Point? I went down to act as scrutineer.
540. Who asked you to go down? No one: Mr. Evans told me that if I went down, I should very likely act as scrutineer for Solomon.
541. Then you did act as scrutineer? Yes.
542. Who afterwards appointed you? I did not know at the time.
543. What were you paid for your services as scrutineer? Nothing.
544. Were you employed or paid as a canvasser? No.
545. Were you paid for doing anything at that election? No. Mr. Evans met me at the wharf and gave me £3 for expenses in going down; and that was the time when he told me it was very likely I should have to act as scrutineer.
546. Did you not get any more than £3 from anybody? No; I swear that positively.
547. Mr. Edwards has put in a paper, to the truth of which he has sworn, and in which you are put down as having received £5 under the heading "Canvassers and Scrutineers." Is Mr. Edwards correct? The only money I received was the £3 from Mr. Evans.
548. Have you ever seen that cheque before [showing one]? To whom is it payable? To me; but I have never seen it before.
549. Can you give any explanation of it? I cannot.
550. Then do you swear that neither directly nor indirectly have you received any money or anything in connection with this election except the £3 from Evans? I do.
551. How did you go down to vote? In my own barge. I went down to Long Bay, and lay there until the election was over.
552. Did Evans ask you to go down to vote for Solomon? No.

553. Did anyone ask you to vote for Solomon? No, there was no need for anyone to ask me, as it was well known about the wharf that I intended to vote for Mr. Solomon.

554. Was that fact known before you received the £3 from Evans? Yes.

555. Was not £3 a large sum for your travelling expenses? No, not for two days, with two men and myself.

556. You were paid for loss of time as well then? No; if I had taken a horse it would have cost me as much.

557. Then you could not have afforded to go to vote at all unless your expenses had been paid? would not have gone at all unless my expenses had been paid.

558. Did you tell Mr. Evans that you wanted your expenses before you would go to vote? I partly spoke of it; and told Mr. Evans that I could not afford the time to go down unless I was paid.

559. Then you agreed to go down to vote if your expenses were paid? Yes.

560. It was on that occasion that he paid you the £3? Yes.

561. And you went down to vote? Yes.

562. *By Mr. M^cIntyre.*—Do you remember, previously to receiving this £3 for expenses from Mr. Evans, stating to Mr. Facy, Captain Fisher's partner, that you did not intend to vote for Captain Fisher? Yes.

563. Do you remember seeing Mr. Andrewartha, and telling him the same thing, before receiving it? Yes.

564. Was Mr. Andrewartha known to be a supporter of Captain Fisher? Yes; he tried all he could to persuade me to vote for Captain Fisher. I distinctly told him no, I intended to vote for Mr. Solomon.

565. Did Mr. Facy try to get you to vote for Captain Fisher? He did try; and said he hoped I would change my mind and vote for Captain Fisher.

566. What did you tell him? I told him no, and that I intended to vote for Mr. Solomon.

567. Can you give us an idea how long this was before Mr. Evans gave you the £3? I cannot say exactly; but it was before the election.

568. Did you make any secret throughout of the fact that it was your intention to support Mr. Solomon? No.

569. *By Mr. Dobson.*—As a matter of fact, did you not, at the beginning of the election time, promise to vote for Captain Fisher? I did.

570. You sent word through Mr. Andrews that you would vote for him? The first thing I heard about the Huon Election was, that Mr. Andrews came to me to solicit my vote; and I told him that very likely I would vote for Mr. Fisher if I happened to be about there at the time. I promised that I would vote for him.

571. And when did you change your opinion? As soon as Mr. Solomon came out.

572. *By Mr. M^cIntyre.*—Have you ever stated any other reason for changing your mind, such as Captain Fisher's speeches or writings having prejudiced you against him? Yes.

573. What were those reasons? Some one supplied me with the *Mercury*, in which I saw Captain Fisher's speeches, and these changed my mind.

MR. JOHN HAY *called in, sworn, and examined.*

574. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is John Hay, and you are a partner in business with Captain Fisher? Yes.

575. Do you remember coming up to Hobart Town on the Thursday night before the last election for the Huon? Yes.

576. Did you call at Vince's on your way up? I did.

577. Did you ask for a conveyance there to take you on to town? I wanted to hire a horse to take me through Brown's River to town. Vince could not lend me one; he had not one to spare.

578. Had you any conversation with Vince about the election? Yes. The merits of the candidates were discussed.

579. Was anything said about money? After some desultory conversation he said, "The man that gives me £10 will be my man." I told him that my friend the Captain could not fight with weapons of that kind.

580. Where did you go to from Vince's? I went to N.W. Bay to Thomson's. I abandoned my intention of going to Brown's River on account of very heavy rain, and I asked Thomson whether he could hire a horse and conveyance to take me to town, as I must be there that night. I offered to pay him anything reasonable. He said he would arrange it for me, and he did. He borrowed a horse, had a cart of his own, and volunteered to come in with me. I got into town to Captain Fisher's house some time after 9 o'clock. I make Captain Fisher's house my home when I come to town. It was raining hard when I got there. I rang the bell and asked whether the Captain was at home. He heard me, and replied, "Yes; what is the matter?" I asked him whether he had any money in his pocket. I wanted to borrow £1 of him. I had only 10s., and that was not enough to pay for the man's horse and food for the night. He lent me the £1, and I paid it to Thomson.

581. Did you intend all along to pay Thomson a fair price for the work he had done? Yes.
582. When you had paid him the 30s. at the door what took place? I introduced him to Captain Fisher as an elector.
583. Did not Captain Fisher know who was there? Not till I told him.
584. Was it after you had borrowed the £1 that you told Captain Fisher who it was? Yes.
585. What did you do then? There was some electioneering conversation took place. I was wet and wanted to change my clothes. I looked in and saw there was supper. I requested Thomson to stop and have supper with me. The difficulty was with the horse. Captain Fisher arranged to stay outside and hold the horse while Thomson had supper. He was then a candidate. We were not long having a cup of tea, and I went to see the elector away. He went away after some little talk on electioneering matters.
586. Thomson says that Captain Fisher told you to take Solomon's money and sell him? That is not true as far as I am concerned. I did not hear Captain Fisher say anything of the sort.
587. Was anything said about taking money for votes by Thompson, Captain Fisher, or anyone else? Thomson said he heard that money was going about very freely. Captain Fisher said something about no man having a right to buy his birthright. He was making an appeal to his (Thomson's) independence.
588. When you went to see Vince did you tell him to collar the money and vote for Fisher? No, said the parties that attempted to buy him deserved to be sold.
589. Did Thomson say whether he would take money if it were offered to him? No.
590. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Thomson in his evidence made the following statement:—"Mr. John Hay came to my place. I asked him 'What brings you round this way? He said 'I am electioneering. I have come to you, John, to put you on your guard. Some of Mr. Solomon's people will be likely to be round with money to you. If they offer you any collar it, and vote for Captain Fisher.'" Did you make any such remark to Mr. Thomson? I did not advise him to take Mr. Solomon's money and vote for Captain Fisher. I deny it *in toto*. As to the other part of the conversation it did not take place in that order.
591. Then what Mr. Thomson stated there is false? It is false.
592. While you were changing your clothes at Captain Fisher's house, had Captain Fisher and Mr. Thomson an opportunity of conversing together? They might have had a few minutes.
593. Did you hear Captain Fisher ask Thomson for his vote? No.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1880.

MR. PETER GOOD *recalled, sworn, and examined.*

594. *By Mr. Dobson.*—You gave evidence in this case before? Yes.
595. Did Mr. Solomon canvass you for your vote? Mr. Edwards did.
596. When and where? In my house, on the 14th June last, ten or eleven days before the election. Mr. Solomon and Mr. Wm. Cuthbert were with him.
597. What took place then? Mr. Edwards asked me if I would give Mr. Solomon my vote—after we had been talking about general topics. I said, "I would not promise my vote to any person until I heard their addresses." Then Mr. Solomon invited me to go to hear his address at Watson's, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon on the Wednesday following. This was after the interview at my house.
598. What took place at your house? When I refused my vote my daughter turned round and said, in a jocular way, to Mr. Solomon, "What will you give me for my vote?" Mr. Edwards said, "The ladies are not allowed to vote; I will tell you what we will do,—if you induce your father to vote for Mr. Solomon you'll get a hat and dress." My daughter made the remark to him, "No, thank you, I don't want a hat and dress."
599. Was that said seriously? I took it so, and so did she.
600. Did you go to the meeting at Watson's? And did Mr. Solomon address the meeting? Yes.
601. Were Cuthbert and Edwards there? Yes, and several others besides.
602. What took place after the meeting? Drinks were introduced immediately after, in the same room.
603. Did you see that the voters paid for what they had? None of them paid for what they had on that occasion.
604. Did you pay for what you had? I did not. I had something.
605. Did you see anybody ordering the liquor, or asking anybody to drink? Yes, I heard Watson asking people to drink. He asked me what I would have. I said I would have a glass of ale. I heard him ask others what they would have. I heard others ask people to drink—a man of the name of Charles Oates: he asked me to drink.
606. Were there many voters drinking in the house? No; about 6 or 8 of them. The room was full of others.
607. When you gave your evidence before, you did not tell us anything about your daughter? No; I was not asked the question.

608. Since your examination, have you told anybody what you have said to-day? I have.
 609. Did you tell Captain Fisher's Solicitor? I did, in writing.
 610. Did you receive a telegram to be here to-day with your daughter? I did.
 611. Why is not your daughter here? She did not wish to come. She did not wish to be identified in the case at all, if she could avoid it.

MR. R. P. ADAMS *called in, sworn, and examined.*

612. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Robert Patten Adams; you are acting as solicitor for James Elisha Baynton? Yes.

613. Have you received instructions from Mr. Baynton to sue Mr. Solomon for the sum of £2 which Baynton says is due to him as scrutineer? No; those are not my instructions. It was in this way: Mr. Baynton, who had been scrutineer for Mr. Solomon, mentioned to me that he had not been paid his fees of two guineas or pounds as he had been promised, and asked me to try and get the fee paid. He said he had applied to Mr. Evans without success. Then he asked me to communicate with Mr. R. J. Edwards. Some short time afterwards I met Mr. Edwards in Macquarie-street, and mentioned the matter to him, when he said he had nothing to do with the engagement of Mr. Baynton, and that the engagement must have been by Mr. Evans, who should have paid him. The impression on my mind is that Mr. Edwards said that Mr. Evans had had money for the purpose of paying scrutineers and necessary expenses. Mr. Edwards said he would communicate with Mr. Solomon with a view to see if the claim could be recognised. I thanked him, and the matter ended there.

614. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Do you remember Mr. Edwards telling you on that occasion that he had nothing to do with Mr. Evans, and that if Evans had engaged Baynton he ought to pay him? I believe that is very nearly what he did say.

615. Has Mr. Baynton up to the present time received the money? I am not aware of its having been paid.

616. Are you aware that Mr. Baynton has applied personally to Mr. Edwards and Mr. Solomon, and been refused? I am not aware of any such application.

617. Did Mr. Baynton tell you of any such application? I would not undertake to say.

618. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Have you heard from Baynton or anybody that the reason why Edwards and Solomon will not recognise Baynton's claim is, that Evans received money from Solomon or Edwards for the purposes of this election, and that he has kept or misapplied some of the money so received? I did not hear the name of Mr. Solomon or Mr. Edwards used as having furnished the money. I drew my own conclusions. Baynton did not tell me that Evans had received any money from Edwards or Solomon.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1880.

MR. WILLIAM MEAD *called in, sworn, and examined.*

619. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Your name is William Mead, and you keep the licensed house the *Franklin Hotel* at Franklin? Yes.

620. Do you remember Captain Fisher and Mr. James Gray coming to your house any time last June? Yes: about the 8th or 10th June—Mr. Fisher was there twice.

621. What did they come there for? To stop for lodgings.

622. Did they appropriate any rooms? Mr. Fisher did.

623. Did you let him have his choice of rooms? No, I could not let him have his choice of rooms because Mr. Solomon was in the front parlour.

624. Did Captain Fisher or Mr. Gray send for you? They did not send for me, for I was there, but Mr. James Gray asked me to send for Peter Good.

625. Did you send for him? Yes.

626. After you had sent for him did Mr. Gray ask you to do anything? Yes. He asked me to sling him a couple of notes.

627. Did Good make his appearance that evening? No.

628. Did he come to your house next morning? Yes.

629. Did you tell Captain Fisher and Mr. Gray of his arrival? Yes.

630. Did Gray do anything then? No, he went into the parlour with Mr. Fisher and Mr. Gray.*

631. Before they went in do you remember Mr. Gray treating you and Good? After they came out of the parlour, not before.

632. How long were Captain Fisher, Mr. Gray, and P. Good closeted together? It might be ten minutes or a quarter of an hour.

633. What happened then? Mr. Gray and Good came out of the parlour and left Mr. Fisher in the parlour. Mr. Gray showed me two sovereigns in his hand. He went alongside Peter Good and put his hand into Good's hand.

* Probably an error, for "Mr. Good."

634. Did Gray say anything to you then? Not at that time.
635. Did he make any remark to you at all about the matter? No; I opened the door then, and walked into the parlour where Captain Fisher was.
636. Did Captain Fisher say anything to you? He said "We have done all we can now with Peter Good."
637. Did Gray make any remark about this little transaction? Yes; he said "Peter Good has just collared the two sovereigns."
638. Where were you when Mr. Gray made this remark to you? I was in the passage. He called me on one side when I came out of the parlour.
639. Did he say anything more? He asked me to have a drink. I told him that Peter Good would sell him. He said he was a towney of his and he would trust his life in his hands. We went into the bar and had a drink.
640. Were Mr. Gray and Good drinking together at the bar? Yes.
641. How long were they drinking together? They might have been 2 hours.
642. *By Mr. Dobson.*—What time did Capt. Fisher get there? I cannot remember. I know he was ringing wet when he got there.
643. Was there a meeting that night of Capt. Fisher's? I could not say.
644. Did Mr. Gray go away the next morning? No; not after he gave Good the money. He was there a day or two after.
645. Was anybody else present but you and Good and Gray? No; only I and Mr. Gray.
646. Do you swear that you saw the coins go from Gray's hand to Good's? No: I saw Mr. Gray have the two sovereigns in his hand as he came out of the parlour. I changed a sovereign for Peter Good after.
647. Do you swear that you told Captain Fisher of this? Yes.
648. If Captain Fisher swears the contrary? He swears falsely if he does.
649. When did you tell him? When I went into the parlour I told Captain Fisher that Gray was pretty well drunk. He said "For God's sake don't let him have any more."
650. For how long had Gray been in liquor? I believe for pretty well all the time he was down there.
651. Did you suggest anything to Captain Fisher as to bribing voters? No.
652. You were making bets on the election? Yes.
653. That Captain Fisher would be returned? Yes. I bet 20 pounds to 40 that he would be returned.
654. Did you tell Captain Fisher that you wanted to give £5 a head to four voters in order to induce them to vote for him that you might win your money? No.
655. Did not Captain Fisher tell you in reply that he had nothing to do with bribery in the election, and that he would have no part in it? No; he clapped me on the back and said, "Your money is right, my boy: I expect 3 to 1 in town."
656. *By Mr. Dodery.*—Did Captain Fisher and Mr. Gray arrive together? Yes; but Mr. Gray did not stop then: he went back to Watson's.
657. Did you pay your £20? I did.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1880.

MRS. SLOUGH *called in, sworn, and examined.*

658. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Your name is Eliza Slough; you are the wife of Wm. Slough, residing in Hobart Town, who is a voter for the Electoral District of Huon? Yes.
659. Do you remember Captain Fisher calling at your house shortly before the last Huon election? Yes.
660. What did he call there for? He asked if Mr. Slough was at home, and I said he was. Mr. Slough was in my kitchen—he came in then.
661. Did he have any talk with Mr. Slough? He said "Brother, how are you." He asked if Mr. Slough would vote for him. He did not say any more, but he walked out of the room, and I walked after him to open the door to let him out. He touched me on the shoulder and said "Old lady, if you will get Mr. Slough to give me his vote I will give you the best bonnet that is in Hobart Town."
662. Did he go away then? Yes, he did.
663. Was there anybody else present when he made you that offer? My daughter, Mrs. Seymour, was present. She came into the room after me when Mr. Fisher was conversing with me.
664. Where is Mr. Slough's polling-place? Brown's River.
665. Did Mr. Slough poll at the last election? Yes.
666. Whom did he vote for? Captain Fisher.
667. How do you know that he voted for Captain Fisher? He told me so the next day.

668. How old is your husband? He will be 80 if he lives till next Sunday.
669. Is his intellect as strong as usual? No.
670. Is he at all childish? Yes, I often think he is by the manner he talks sometimes.
671. Do you know whether he was appointed to act as Scrutineer for Captain Fisher at Brown's River? Yes, he was.
672. How do you know that? Because Mr. Slough told me that he was.
673. Did he tell you that he was to get anything—[Question objected to.]
674. Have you seen Captain Fisher since the election? Yes, I have.
675. Where? At his office.
676. What did you go there for? To ask for the two guineas for the scrutineering, and also for the new bonnet which he had promised me.
677. When you asked him for these, what did he say? He walked out to the door and said, "I believe Mr. Slough worked for me, and I will call and see him."
678. Did he ever call on you afterwards? No.
679. Were there any other persons in his office at that time? I saw some one there, but only went as far as the door.
680. Did Captain Fisher seem glad to see you then? I cannot say.
681. Did he ask you into the office? No, he did not.
682. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Do you remember the first time Captain Fisher saw you or your husband at Brown's River about the election? Yes, he came there with Captain Lucas one evening.
683. On that occasion did your husband promise to vote for Captain Fisher, and say that he had done a great deal for the district? I cannot say, to speak the truth.
684. Did you say on that occasion that Captain Fisher had done a great deal for the drunkards of the district, or anything of that kind? I said that ever after George Lucas left the lodge it went back. That is what I said.
685. Did you say that Captain Fisher had worked hard to keep the lodge up? I did not.
686. After Captain Fisher saw you and after you went up to Hobart Town did any one go to you from Mr. Solomon—Mr. Evans for instance? Yes, Mr. Evans did come on the morning of the election.
687. Before Captain Fisher came to your house in Hobart Town did not Mr. Evans go to see your husband about his vote? No, he did not,—not before Captain Fisher came to him about his vote.
688. When Captain Fisher went to see you did he not tell you or your husband that since he had promised to vote for him he had heard that Solomon's men had been there to ask for your husband's vote? Yes, he did; I remember it perfectly now. He did say that, and Mr. Slough said that he had not.
689. Mr. Evans did go to see you, and when? The morning of the election.
690. Was that the first time he saw you about the election? Yes, he came once before and could not see Mr. Slough. He never saw Mr. Slough; it was me that he saw, for Mr. Slough was ill at the time.
691. When Mr. Evans saw you what took place between you? He asked me whether Mr. Slough would vote for Mr. Solomon. I said I could ask him, and he said he could vote for whom he chose. That was all that took place that morning. I did not see him on any other occasion.
692. Did Evans offer you any money? The morning of the election, when he came with the cab, he laid two pounds down on my front room table and said "That is for Mr. Slough's expenses."
693. Did you hear him promise Slough £5 to vote for Solomon? No; he never did, as far as I know.
694. Did he have any conversation with Slough about his vote? No, not in my presence. When Mr. Slough came home the next day I said, "Mr. Evans laid £2 on the table, and I asked him what that was for, and he said for Mr. Slough's expenses;" and Mr. Slough said "Give it to him back again, I paid my own expenses."
695. Did Evans give you any more money than £2? He did not. He laid it on the table, and I asked him what it was for, and he said it was for Mr. Slough's expenses.
696. You put it in your pocket did you not? No, I left it on the table till Mr. Slough came home and he told me to take it and give it to Mr. Evans back again,—that he had paid his own expenses.
697. Was it on the morning of the election that that money was paid? Yes, it was.
698. Was there any promise of money made to you or to your husband by Mr. Evans before that day? No; there never was.
699. Did Evans promise to give you anything if your husband voted for Solomon? No; he made no promise. I swear that.
700. What about a dress which was promised to you by Evans if Slough would vote for Solomon, and Solomon was returned? He never did, to me.
701. When Captain Fisher called to see you in Hobart Town did he ask you whether Evans had been there? I could not say.
702. Did you tell Captain Fisher that Solomon's people had been to your house and that Captain Fisher would have to stump up freely, or anything to that effect? No, nor anything to that effect.
703. Did Captain Fisher say to you that if he could not get your husband's vote without money he would go without it altogether? No, he never said that.

704. Did you mention the name of a man called Millhouse to Captain Fisher? Yes; I did.

705. What did you say about Millhouse? I said, "You ought to call at Mr. Millhouse's, for he said he would vote for Captain Fisher."

706. Did you say that he was needy as well as yourself, and that a little money would do him good? No; I did not.

707. Mr. Evans says that he offered you a dress? I must have been hard of hearing, for I never heard him speak such a word to me. He never offered me a dress.

708. When was it that the conversation took place between Captain Fisher and yourself about the bonnet? It was about 6 or 7 in the evening when he came to my place, to the best of my belief.

709. Was that the first time he had been there? I believe it was, to the best of my recollection.

710. Who was present when this was said? Who heard it? The conversation began in my front room when I was letting him out at the door. Mrs. Seymour was present and heard what Captain Fisher said.

711. Do you remember the exact words that Captain Fisher said? He put his hand on my shoulder and said: "Old lady, if you can get Mr. Slough to vote for Captain Fisher I will give you the best bonnet that can be got in Hobart Town." Those were the exact words.

712. Have you ever received that bonnet? No.

713. Did you expect to receive it? Of course I did.

714. Then you thought there was no harm in taking a bonnet to get your husband to vote? I thought there was no harm to take a bonnet after it was promised to me.

715. Did you not yourself in the first instance ask Captain Fisher to give you a bonnet? No; I did not.

716. Did you ever get paid the scrutineer's money? No: Captain Fisher said he would call on my husband, but he never did.

717. Did Captain Fisher tell you that he did not know whether your husband had been employed as a scrutineer? No; he did not.

718. If Captain Fisher says so he swears falsely? He does.

719. You say your husband is old and childish? Yes; he is.

720. But he came here to give his evidence the other day? Yes: I believe he would say yes or no to anything, he is that childish.

721. He was able to give his vote, at all events? He went to give his vote? Of course he did.

722. Whom did he promise to vote for before the election? I do not know.

723. When Captain Fisher went to ask your husband to vote for him did you hear him promise one way or other? No; I did not hear him.

724. You drove down in a cab with Evans on the morning of the election from Hobart Town to Brown's River? Yes; I did. My husband had a bad leg, and he asked me if I could come down to dress it for him; and I did so.

725. And you told Captain Fisher a few days before that Mr. Solomon's carriage was going to take you down? No; I never did.

726. When you drove down in Evans's carriage I suppose your husband had promised to vote for Evans's man? He never did.

727. Evans canvassed you for your husband's vote for Solomon? He did.

728. If your husband had not promised to vote for Solomon why did you drive down in Evans's carriage? I said the coach had just passed and I ought to go to Brown's River. He said, "I will give you a drive with pleasure." That was on the same morning.

729. You knew nothing whatever about being driven down before the morning of the election? I did not, because I intended to go by the coach, and that had gone past.

730. Where did you see Evans first on that morning? He came up to my door and thought that Mr. Slough was going with him. Evans expected to take my husband down that morning, but he had gone the night before.

731. Did he offer to take you down? When the coach was gone I asked him to take me down.

732. Then you had never intended to go down in the carriage with your husband? No.

733. When the bonnet was mentioned had you opened the sitting-room door to let Capt. Fisher out? I had the front door in my hand at the time.

734. You say he was standing inside the door? Yes.

735. *By Mr. M. Intyre.*—As far as you know had your husband any intention of going down by any carriage? Not that I am aware of: not in the least.

736. Did you understand that he intended to go down the day before? Yes: some days before he had told me he would have to go down on a little business.

737. How did he go down? In Mr. Fisher's coach.

738. Do you know where he slept that night? Yes, at Capt. George Lucas's.

MRS. SEYMOUR *called in, sworn, and examined.*

739. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Your name is Emily Seymour, you are the wife of Thomas Seymour of Hobart Town, and you are living with your mother and Mr. Slough? Yes.

740. Were you living with her before the last Huon election? Yes.

741. Do you remember Capt. Fisher coming to your mother's house shortly before the last Huon election? Yes, I do.

742. Did you see him there? Yes, I did.

743. Did you hear any conversation between Capt. Fisher and your mother? Yes, I did.

744. Will you tell us what that conversation was? As Capt. Fisher was going out at the door I heard him say that if mother would get Mr. Slough to give him his vote he would give her a bonnet, the best that could be got.

745. How did you happen to hear that conversation? I followed my mother out of the kitchen as she was going to let Capt. Fisher out.

746. Were there any other persons present with your father that evening when Capt. Fisher saw him? Yes; Mr. Seymour was one, and also his cousin Mr. Atkins and myself.

747. Did Capt. Fisher stay long with Mr. Slough? No, he did not. It was as Capt. Fisher was going out at the door I heard him make the offer to my mother.

748. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Who has spoken to you about the evidence you were to give here to-day? No one.

749. Have you not been talking to Mr. Edwards about the evidence you were to give here to-day? No.

750. Have you not spoken to him at all about coming here? I have just spoken to him about coming here, but not about the evidence.

751. Is it right that no one has spoken to you about the evidence? Yes, it is.

752. Do you mean to say then that you did not tell any one what evidence you were able to give before this Committee if you were called as a witness? I did say to Mr. Edwards one morning that I did hear what Capt. Fisher said to my mother.

753. I suppose you and your mother have talked over this case? No, we have not.

754. Never mentioned anything about it to one another? No; my mother has not been at home.

755. But you have had opportunities of seeing her, I suppose? and did you know what evidence she was going to give to-day? No, I did not.

756. Were you living at your mother's house at this time? I have always lived with her ever since she has been in town.

757. Then before Capt. Fisher saw your mother, when the conversation took place about the bonnet, did not Mr. Evans pay a visit to your mother and your father? I was not in at the time. I heard of it from Mr. Slough. I did not ask Mr. Slough whether he had seen him.

758. Where did Captain Fisher go to when he came to see Mr. Slough on this night? He walked right through into the kitchen.

759. When he went out of the kitchen you went out too? Yes, I did.

760. What else took place between Captain Fisher and Mrs. Slough? I do not know. When I heard that I went back into the kitchen because my husband called me.

761. You can't remember anything else that was said? No; I know that they were talking outside for some minutes afterwards.

762. Was Captain Fisher outside the door when that was said about the bonnet? No; it was just as he was going out of the door.

763. Then from the time you left the kitchen to the time you went back again you are not able to tell us anything except about the bonnet? No, that was all I heard.

764. Was it said in a loud voice or in a low voice about the bonnet? It was spoken in a medium voice; I could hear it pretty plainly.

765. Then if anything else had been said in your presence you think you could have heard that pretty plainly? Yes; I should have heard him if I had staid in the room.

766. And now do you remember the exact words that were used by Captain Fisher? Yes; he said, "Mrs. Slough, if you get Mr. Slough to give me his vote you shall have the best bonnet that can be bought."

767. Do you remember anything else about the matter? No, I don't.

768. Do you know what arrangements were made to take your mother down to Brown's River on the day of the election? No, I do not.

769. Did your mother tell you before the election that she would go down in a cab on the election day? No, not till the morning of the election. She said then that very likely she would go down to Brown's River in a cab, but I did not ask her anything about it.

770. Are you living with your husband now? Yes, I am.

771. Did you sell off his property and leave him and go to Sydney? I went to Sydney, but did not sell his property.

772. Did you leave your husband to go to Sydney? No; I left him, but we were friendly.
773. How long have you been back from Sydney? Six months.
774. Since that time has any charge been made against you by the police in reference to property? [Objected to.] I never had such a charge made against me in my life.
775. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Has Mr. Edwards tried to tamper with you in any way as to the evidence which you were to give here? No, he did not.
776. Has any one else on behalf of Mr. Solomon tried to tamper with you as to the evidence which you were to give to-day? No.
777. *By Dr. Crowther.*—Your mother is a monthly nurse? Yes.
778. Is she as much at home as away? She has scarcely been at home two days since she came to town.

JOHN MIDSON *called in, sworn, and examined.*

779. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Your name is John Midson; you are a farmer residing at North-west Bay, and you have a vote for the Huon? Yes.
780. Do you know a man named George Miles? Yes. He lives at Peppermint Bay.
781. Do you remember getting a letter from him before the last Huon Election? Yes.
782. How did you get it? George Maguire brought it up to my place.
783. Have you got that letter? No. I gave it to Mr. Fisher.
784. Did you keep a copy of that letter? No.
785. What did the letter state? It stated that if I would vote for Captain Fisher he would see that I should have the sum of £2. It was closed, "I am yours, George Miles."
786. Did it say anything about George Maguire? It said he would take me to Kingston, my polling-place, and bring me back again.
787. Did you write any answer to that letter? No.
788. After you got that letter did you see Captain Fisher? Yes: he came to my house.
789. Did you tell him about the letter you received from Miles? Yes, and gave it to him.
790. Why did you give it to him? I gave it to him and he read it. He asked me if he might keep it, and I said "Yes, as it was no use to me."
791. Did Captain Fisher say anything to you about voting or going to vote? He asked me whether I would vote for him. I told him no, I would vote for no one.
792. Did he ask you anything about going for the £2? We were talking subsequently and I said I would not go for £40.
793. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Did Captain Fisher know that you had the letter until you showed it to him? I do not know whether he did or not.
794. When you first told Captain Fisher about the note, did he not tell you that Miles had no right or authority to offer you any money, and that he (Captain Fisher) would not pay you any? I did not hear anything of that.
795. Did he not ask you to give him the letter that he might take it back to Miles, and that he would tell Miles what he thought of him? He asked whether he could keep it, and I said "Yes, it was no use to me."
796. Did he not express himself as being angry with Miles for having offered money in his name? No: I did not see anything of that.
797. If Captain Fisher says that he did speak to you to that effect, will he say what is wrong? I do not recollect it.
798. Do you remember Captain Fisher saying to you that he would not sanction such a thing, or words to that effect? No, I don't.
799. You did not go to vote? No. I did not vote for any one.
800. If you had voted, whom would you have voted for? I gave Mr. Edwards the first denial, and after that I would not break my word for all the money in the island.
801. Then what took place between you and Mr. Edwards? Mr. Edwards asked me whether I would vote Mr. Solomon, and I told him I would not vote for anyone, and he thanked me and said "Then you won't be for Mr. Solomon nor yet against him."
802. Did you tell Mr. Edwards that you would not sell your vote to any man? He never mentioned such a thing.
803. Did anybody offer you money to vote on behalf of Mr. Solomon? No.
804. Have you stated to any one since the election that you were offered money by both parties? No.
805. When you saw Captain Fisher about Miles' letter, he did not give you any money nor offer to pay you any money? No, he did not.
806. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Did you consider yourself insulted by receiving such a letter as that? It did not offend me because I had made up my mind not to vote.
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1880.

GEORGE MILES *called in, sworn, and examined.*

806*. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Your name is George Miles; you reside at Peppermint Bay, and you have a vote for the electoral district of Huon? Yes.

807. Did you take a considerable interest in the last Huon election on behalf of Captain Fisher? I promised to interest myself among my friends if he would consent to stand, as knowing him as a friend of some 30 years standing. We have been on most intimate terms for some 30 years.

808. When did you tell Captain Fisher this? Not before he declared his intention of standing for the district.

809. After Captain Fisher came out as a candidate did you canvass on his behalf? I asked my friends to vote for him.

810. Where did you go to canvass? To Bruni Island, Barnes' Bay, to Mr. Samuel Young's, and Mr. Johnston's.

811. Whom did you see at Barnes' Bay? I saw Mr. Samuel Young and Mr. Johnston.

812. Did you go to Three Hut Point to canvass for Captain Fisher? I did.

813. Whom did you see there? Mr. Ward.

814. Any one else? No.

815. Did you go to Oyster Cove? No.

816. Did you go to any other place to canvass? No.

817. Do you know Mr. Osborne Geeves? I do.

818. Was he Captain Fisher's Election Agent? I do not know.

819. Did you have any conversation with him with regard to the approaching election? None, either verbally or in writing.

820. Do you know Mr. John Hay? I do.

821. Had you any conversation with him about the election? I have talked the matter over with him at different times in the steamer when I have been coming up and down.

822. Did he know that you were interesting yourself in the election on behalf of Captain Fisher? He would know that I was interesting myself so far as I have already spoken of.

823. Did you tell Captain Fisher at any time how you were getting on? I have spoken to him occasionally.

824. That would be because Captain Fisher knew that you were interesting yourself on his behalf? Amongst my friends, as I have previously said.

825. How often did you see Captain Fisher with regard to the election? Not often; I should think not more than two or three times.

826. Do you know a person named John Midson? I do.

827. Did you have any conversation with him before the election? I had.

828. Tell us what it was? I wrote a note to him requesting him to go to Kingston to vote, saying that he ought to vote. I was informed that he had refused to vote on some religious scruples. I thought that perhaps pecuniary considerations had something to do with it; that he could not lose the time, knowing that he had a sick wife and had some heavy doctor's bills to pay. If he would go and vote I would pay him £2 for his expenses.

829. Did not you offer to convey him to the polling-place? I did not.

830. Did you not say in the letter that George Maguire would drive Midson over to the polling-place and back? I did not; nothing of the kind.

831. Whom did you send the letter by? By George Maguire.

832. Then if Mr. Midson swears that you did make such an offer, would that statement be true or false? It would be a gross falsehood.

833. All you offered him then was £2 for loss of time? For loss of time and to pay his expenses; which he did not get.

834. You told us that you heard he was not going to vote? I did.

835. And you promised to send him the £2 to induce him to vote at the election? Yes.

836. To vote for whom? For whom he thought proper. I had been informed that he was not going to vote for Mr. Solomon, on religious grounds.

837. Then whom did you think he would vote for if he went to the poll? Captain Fisher.

838. Then if Midson says that the letter contained a direct request to vote for Captain Fisher, that would be false? That would be false. He was to go and vote.

839. You meant to vote for Captain Fisher? I did.

840. *By Mr. Dobson.*—When was it that you wrote? Some time in April last, I believe. It was some time in the middle of April—I cannot fix the day. It was some weeks, I think, before the election. It was before the election.

841. Who was this George Maguire? He is a brother-in-law of mine.

842. Was he working at your place? He was working at my place, and was going away the very day on which I wrote the letter. He lives at North West Bay. He is on intimate terms with Midson.

843. Do you still say that you did not tell Midson in the letter that Maguire would drive him over? I did not write anything of the kind, but I asked Maguire to use his influence with the old man to go.

844. Did Captain Fisher authorise you to offer any money to Midson? He did not; and to no one else.

845. As a matter of fact, have you heard Captain Fisher say that he would not spend a shilling or give a glass of beer in getting votes? I have heard him say so repeatedly.

846. Did Captain Fisher know that you were going to make this offer? He did not.

847. Afterwards did anything take place between you and Captain Fisher? Yes. He sent a telegram down to me to say he had seen my unwise letter, and not to write to any one else. He was quite indignant. He wrote to me afterwards when he arrived home, telling me how indignant he felt that I should do such a thing.

848. The man never got his money? Never.

849. You saw a voter named Young—do you know when that was? It was prior to the election—but I could not fix the date.

850. At the time you saw him do you know whether Mr. Solomon's people had been to see him? I do not.

851. Do you know whether he was employed as a scrutineer for Mr. Solomon at that time? I do not know that he was. I have every reason to think that he was not employed at that time. From what he said to me I was led to believe that Mr. Solomon's party had not been to him.

852. Did he promise on that occasion to vote for Captain Fisher? He promised to vote for Captain Fisher, and to use his influence with his friends.

853. Have you been paid by Captain Fisher or by any one else on his behalf? Not one penny; neither would I.

854. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Can you fix the date of your visit to Barnes' Bay? It was somewhere about the time that he declared himself—a few days one way or the other.

855. That would be nearly three months before the Election? Some time before—I cannot fix the date.

856. Did you act as a scrutineer for Captain Fisher? I did not.

857. Did you give George Maguire any verbal directions to drive Midson backwards and forwards to the poll? I told him to use his influence to get the old man to go and vote.

858. Do you know whether Midson did actually vote? I do not know.

859. When Captain Fisher sent you this telegram and letter reproaching you for having made this offer to Midson, did he request you to discontinue interesting yourself on his behalf? He did not.

WILLIAM ROBERT LUCAS *called in and examined.*

860. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Your name is William Robert Lucas, you keep the *Picnic Hotel* at Victoria, and you have a vote for the Huon District? Yes.

861. Do you remember an election that took place in the District when Mr. Foster and Dr. Crowther were candidates? I do.

862. Did you interest yourself on Dr. Crowther's behalf? I did.

863. Was James Watson his agent? He was.

864. Under instructions or directions from Watson did you go to Oyster Cove? I did.

865. Whom did you see there? I saw three of the electors there—Mr. Dandridge, Mr. Bridge, and Flight.

866. Did you find that anyone had been there before you? Yes, Mr. George Lucas, of Kingston.

867. Who was he there on behalf of? Mr. Foster.

868. Did you have any conversation with these three electors? I had.

869. Tell us what it was? After a little conversation I found out that a little money had been offered. They said, you are for Dr. Crowther. I found out that they were inclined to vote for the Doctor. I said, I think you three gentlemen can't properly understand each other, I think I had better retire, and leave you three gentlemen to settle among yourselves what you require. I then left the room. I was recalled. Mr. Dandridge then told me that they would like to vote for Dr. Crowther; but that they had had an offer of £10 a-piece to vote for Mr. Foster, from Mr. George Lucas. If they could get £10 a-piece they would vote for the Doctor.

870. Did you have that message conveyed to Dr. Crowther? I did.

871. What answer did he give? The answer I received was that he would not give them ten farthings.

872. Did you tell Dr. Crowther that if their votes were not secured he would lose the election? I told the agent so. I did not see the Doctor on that occasion.

873. And did Dr. Crowther lose the election? He did.

874. In consequence of this conversation did you cause the bribery oath to be administered to Mr. George Lucas and to one or two others? I did.

875. Did you hear any rumour that one Mr. Joseph Keen had received a bribe on Mr. Foster's side? I did.

876. Did you tax Keen with it? I did.

877. At his request did you confront him with George Lucas? I did, in the street.

878. Did you ask Keen in the presence of George Lucas whether he had received any money for his vote? I did.

879. What answer did he make? He said "No, but this man (pointing to George Lucas) offered me £10."

880. Did George Lucas deny the statement? He did not deny it.

881. After you left Keen, did you make any remark to Lucas? I did. I said, "George, you have done a great deal of injury over this election for the Huon District." He said I had no business to put him on the bribery oath. I said, "By your own admission I was perfectly justified in doing it;" but I told him "I should never do the same again for £500, because I have come to the conclusion by experience that the man that will take the bribe will take the oath."

882. Did he on that occasion tell you that he had given money to any voters for their votes? Yes, he did, to several persons: he mentioned Dandridge, Flight, and Bridge.

883. Did he tell you what he had given them? I think he said £10; but I am not positive whether it was £10 or £20.

884. Did he tell you that he had given £20 to another elector? Yes, to Dr. Smith. He said he had given him £20, but the Doctor had been canvassing.

885. Did George Lucas on that occasion tell you what he had made out of Mr. Foster's election? He said £200 or about £200.

886. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Bribery appears to be rife in the Huon District? I don't know. I never had anything to do with it.

887. As a resident you know what goes on there, do you not? I never had anything to do with it, but from hearsay on that occasion it was so.

888. Have you heard that money was flying about at the late election? I heard it reported that it was.

889. And that Mr. Solomon had spent a great deal of money? I heard so from the opposite party, but not from any of Mr. Solomon's supporters.

890. Are you on good terms with Mr. George Lucas? We are not the best of friends. We have not been so for some time; not since the election.

891. Did you do any canvassing for Mr. Solomon in the last election? I never solicited one vote for either party.

892. You are a voter yourself? Yes.

893. You were employed by Mr. Solomon in this election? My house was the polling-place for Victoria.

894. What accommodation did you provide for Mr. Solomon: what did you do for him? Dinners, refreshments to the electors, committee room, and what was required for the accommodation of the electors and their friends.

895. Who engaged you? Mr. Edwards.

896. Who paid you? Mr. Edwards.

897. How much? I think the bill for accommodation of Mr. Solomon and everything was about £25. [Mr. Dobson asks the other side to produce the bill, and they reply that they have not got it.]

898. How was the £25 paid you? In bank notes.

899. Can you give us any idea roughly what the details were? Dinners, teas, refreshments of all descriptions, accommodation for Mr. Edwards, horses in the stables, people being at the meetings.

900. How many electors are there altogether there? Eighteen or 19, I think. There were about 40 friends and electors, I think, who sat down at different times during the day to dinner, all paid for by Mr. Solomon except four.

901. Was this continued up to the election day? The dinners and teas to the electors and friends continued up to the evening of the election day.

902. Before you were paid that sum, had you not been paid another sum by Mr. Edwards or Mr. Solomon? Some few shillings, but I could not tell the amount.

903. Did they not pay their bills from time to time as they called in at your house? They paid some money, but I could not tell what, the same as Captain Fisher did for some of his for their expenses while staying there.

904. This sum of £25 was not that for the expenses of the election day only? There was some little amount of £2 or £3 included in it relating to a day or two before.

905. Had you open house for Mr. Solomon? Yes, for the whole day for any of his friends or the electors who might be there.

906. Is the item £15 in the auditor's account put in [referring to it] correct, showing all the money paid to you by Mr. Solomon or his agents? No, it is not all, because, as I have said, I received £25 and some few shillings.

907. Did Mr. Edwards occasionally take in voters to be served? Yes, before the election day, but during the election time. He was not there on the polling day. He stayed there two or three nights several days before.

908. Was Edwards then acting as agent for Mr. Solomon? I believe he was.

909. Did you see Mr. Evans from time to time at the *Picnic*? Yes.

910. He was acting as an agent or canvasser for Mr. Solomon? Yes, but I did not know he was canvassing at Victoria.

911. You knew that he was canvassing for Mr. Solomon? Not at Victoria. He stayed at my house one night, and then stayed at a friend's house (Mr. Wright's) two days and nights, I think.

912. Do you swear that you did not know that Evans was canvassing in Solomon's behalf? Not positively.

913. What did you know about it? I knew nothing from Mr. Evans. I heard after he was gone that he had been down canvassing. I remarked I did not know it, not till after he had gone.

914. Did you hear that any elector had been given or offered money to vote for Mr. Solomon? It was talked of that Mr. Solomon was buying some of their votes, but I did not see anything of it myself.

915. Whom did you hear this from? I heard the conversation going on at the counter.

916. You remembered several conversations that took place 13 years ago? Yes.

917. Can't you tell me the name of a single person who said so? No.

918. You did not rebuke Mr. Solomon, or say that it was spoiling the district? I was busy in the bar when this conversation took place, so that I did not say a word either one way or the other; and I did not believe it.

919. *By Mr. M. Intyre.*—Did you hear any rumour that Capt. Fisher was spending any money in the district? Yes; I heard that they were both prepared to spend money.

920. Then it was just hearsay as to both? Yes.

921. Did you entertain Captain Fisher at your Hotel? I did.

922. Any others with him? Yes, some of his friends.

923. Did he make any arrangements with you as to what you were to provide? He did. I was to provide dinner, some light refreshments for his friends, but no intoxicating drinks.

924. How many were you to provide for? He said he thought there would be five or six, he could not rightly say; and I agreed to do it for so much.

925. Do you mean five or six voters? Yes.

926. And except as to intoxicating liquors they were to have whatever light refreshments they required from time to time? Yes.

927. Who made the arrangements with you? Capt. Fisher.

928. How much was he to pay you for these five or six voters? Five pounds.

929. When Capt. Fisher made this arrangement with you, did he say anything about what you ought to do as to the other side? He told me that I ought to have £50 out of the other side.

930. Did you prepare two tables, one for Captain Fisher's and one for Mr. Solomon's party? I did, and when the tables were laid they said they would all dine together; and they did so.

931. Did they all come in indiscriminately for all parties? It was put on the table, but there were tea and coffee on a side table for those who wished to have them; a great number preferred the tea and coffee.

932. *By Mr. Dobson.*—For this £5 you were to provide a separate room for Capt. Fisher's agent, and accommodation for one or two horses, and food and refreshments for the day? Yes, not including any intoxicating drinks.

933. Who proposed the price? I did.

934. And he said it was fair? Yes; he said it was very reasonable.

935. Were you paid after the election by the Agent? Yes. I was paid after the election by Mr. Geeves.

936. Captain Fisher's agent and three scrutineers were there? There were four sat down to dinner—voters and Mr. Geeves—Fisher's party.

937. Those voters acted as scrutineers for Captain Fisher? I believe they did.

938. In making this agreement was any word said about voters? He said five or six; he did not say friends or voters.

939. *By Dr. Crowther.*—Do you remember any other persons who received money to your knowledge in the contest between Foster and myself? There were several names mentioned, and that led to the administration of the bribery oath.

940. Was the impression on your mind so strong that corrupt practices existed that you considered it necessary to administer the bribery oath to several persons holding important positions? Yes.

941. Was the oath administered to the Church of England clergyman, who was a voter? It was.

942. Do you know of your own knowledge whether it was administered to a Justice of the Peace? It was. I was scrutineer on the occasion.

943. Do you recollect a requisition being sent to me signed by about 27 persons? I do.

944. Who pledged themselves to secure my return? Yes.

945. How many voted for me? Two.
946. What was the Magistrate's name who was sworn? Mr. Williamson.
947. And you are of opinion that the action taken in the contest between Mr. Foster and myself has corrupted the District? Yes, at that time; and it arose from one of the electors making the boast that he could buy the Huon District for £1000.
948. Do you know the name of that elector? Yes; it was George Lucas.
949. *By the Chairman.*—This George Lucas—is he any relation of yours? No.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1880.

JOSEPH KEEN *called in, sworn, and examined.*

Mr. H. DOBSON for the Petitioner, in the absence of Mr. A. DOBSON.

950. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Your name is Joseph Keen, you reside at Kingston, and you are Post-master there? Yes.
951. Do you remember the election that took place there some years ago when Mr. Foster and Dr. Crowther were candidates? Perfectly well.
952. Were you then a voter for the District of the Huon? I was.
953. Do you remember calling at the *Kingston Hotel* before the election? Yes, some two or three days before; it might have been a week.
954. Who was the landlord of the hotel at that time? I believe Mr. George Lucas was the landlord—he had some interest in it at any rate.
955. Did you have any conversation with him that evening? Rather unusual with him, he commenced the conversation himself.
956. Tell us what took place at that conversation? [Question objected to.] He asked me whom I was going to vote for. He said he supposed I knew there was going to be an election, and asked me whom I was going to vote for. I told him I had not made up my mind. I would vote for the best man whoever he was. He said “I am working for Mr. Foster, and I am prepared to offer you £10 if you vote our way.” I told him I was not brought up to that sort of thing; I did not approve of it, and I hoped he would not mention it again if he wished me to be friendly with him.
957. Was that subject mentioned afterwards between you and Lucas up to the day of election? No.
958. After the election did any one accuse you of having taken money for your vote? Mr. William Robert Lucas did.
959. What did he accuse you of receiving? Ten pounds.
960. What did you say? I asked him for his authority, and he said Mr. George Lucas. Then I said “Bring him to my face.” He said “I will soon do that.” He fetched Mr. Lucas up to my place, and either Mr. Lucas or myself asked him (George Lucas) if it was true that I had received £10 for my vote. He answered “No.” “But” I said “You did wrong to offer it to me.” He made no reply. He did not in any way deny in my hearing that he made me the offer. He then went away with Mr. William Lucas.

CHARLES OATES *called in, sworn and examined.*

961. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Your name is Charles Oates; you are a farmer and mill-owner at Victoria; you are a voter for the Huon District? Yes.
962. Did you take an interest in the last Huon election on behalf of Mr. Solomon? I did.
963. Do you remember a public meeting held at Victoria by Mr. Solomon on the 7th June last? I do.
964. Do you know a voter named Robert Vince? Yes.
965. Did you see him on the morning of the meeting? Yes; at his own place.
966. Did you have any conversation with him? Yes. He told me whom he intended to support—Mr. Solomon. He said he would go to the meeting. We went together to the meeting. Before he left he told me he was going to support Mr. Solomon, and he said he would furnish his horse and cart provided his expenses were paid on the day of election; and he would go over to North West Bay and see Worsley and two or three of the other electors on behalf of Solomon.
967. Did you both attend the meeting on that day? Yes.
968. What part did Vince take at the meeting? He supported the resolution that Mr. Solomon was a fit and proper person. He was one of the first.
969. After the meeting did you tell Mr. Edwards anything? Yes, I told him what Vince had said to me about furnishing the horse and cart for the canvassing.
970. Do you know a voter named Coombes? Yes.
971. Did you see him at all after this meeting? Yes, I called upon Mr. Coombes at the Hollow Tree, and we had some talk about the election. He said, “You see I am a cripple, and my horse will be away on the polling day.” I told him I had arranged for a horse and cart for that day. He said he would sooner borrow a horse if he could and take his own trap as his horse would be away on that day. He did not succeed in getting a horse, and did not come to the election.

972. Had he told you which candidate he intended to support? He led me to believe he intended to support Mr. Solomon, and that was the reason I offered to drive him over to vote for Mr. Solomon.

973. Did you tell Coombes with whom you had arranged for this cart? I did not.

974. Do you know a voter named John Thomson? Yes.

975. Do you remember being present at a Road Trust meeting at Victoria on 19th June last? Yes.

976. Was Thomson there? Yes.

977. Did you hear him express himself in any way about the election? There was a good deal of talk about the election, and he (Thomson) said he would vote with the Victorians for Mr. Solomon. I asked Thomson if he could furnish a horse and cart on the polling day to go to Kingston to take the voters. He said he would if his expenses were paid. I gave him £3. I told him to go to Kingston early on the polling day and do what he could there.

978. How far is it from the Hollow Tree round to Kingston? From 12 to 14 miles, and a very bad road.

979. Do you remember Thomson on that same day, after this conversation, saying anything to you about some apple trees? Yes; he asked me if I had got any apple trees for sale. I told him I had not, but I thought my son Thomas had some. He said he wanted some, and his brother-in-law wanted 1000.

980. Did you see Thomson some time after this at your son's orchard? Yes.

981. What took place? He came for some apple trees. I saw my son and him digging them up. That was all I saw.

982. Do you know of any arrangements between your son and Thomson about those trees? No, I do not.

983. Did your son take an active part in this election? Not in the least.

984. Are you a total abstainer? I do not drink any strong drinks at all. I have been so for more than four years.

985. During the time that you were interesting yourself in the election did you treat any of the voters? Not one of the voters, to my knowledge, with drink.

986. Peter Good in his examination before the Committee has made the following statement with regard to what took place after a meeting held by Mr. Solomon at the Franklin:—"I heard others ask people to drink—a man of the name of Charles Oates: he asked me to drink." Is that statement correct? It is not.

987. Do you remember attending a sale at the *Picnic* shortly before the election? Yes.

988. Were Captain Fisher and Mr. Gray there electioneering at that time? Yes.

989. Did you see Mr. Gray employing himself in any way? I saw him inside the public-house having some drink with a lot round—electors and others.

990. Did he ask you to have anything? Yes.

991. Did you accept of his hospitality? No, I would not.

992. *By Mr. Dobson.*—You are known as the most hospitable man in the Huon district? I don't know I am sure.

993. Is it possible for you to have done all the work you did without asking anyone to drink? I did not ask anyone to drink, not one.

994. I believe you found the temperance principles advocated by Captain Fisher a great blessing to yourself and your family? Yes.

995. As you believe so strongly in the principle which Captain Fisher has made the chief aim of his life, how is it you did not support him? Because I thought Mr. Solomon a better man.

996. Did you not also know that Mr. Solomon had and would spend far more money? I did not know.

997. Did not you know that Captain Fisher would spend no money? I did not know.

998. Did he not tell you so? No, he did not.

999. Do you remember having a conversation with Captain Fisher about the election? I do.

1000. What took place at that conversation? He said "There is my opponent over yonder." I said "Is yon him?" I did not know him. He said "Yes; he is talking to Mr. Bennell." He said he would bet 3 to 1 that he would get in by ten majority. He was offering to bet John Phillips, the publican on the wharf. I said to Captain Fisher "You ought to shake hands with Mr. Solomon," and he said he had no objection. I said "If you will go and shake hands with him, and tell him what you have told us, I will support you." I did not take notice whether he shook hands or not.

1001. Did you not know that Captain Fisher left you for the purpose of shaking hands? He left as I supposed for that purpose.

1002. Had you not another conversation with Captain Fisher? I had, when he came back.

1003. Had you not a conversation with Captain Fisher before this day on the wharf, near your son's stall? I had.

1004. Did you not tell Captain Fisher that he would stand no chance at all unless he spent plenty of money and beer? I did not.

1005. Did you not offer to spend the money for him so that he should not be seen in it? I did not.

1006. Do you mean to say that you did not advise Captain Fisher to be a little liberal and spend a little money? I did not.

1007. Will you swear that the subject of money and expenses was not mentioned between you and Captain Fisher? It was not mentioned by him nor by me. There was some talk about some beer.

1008. Were you not chatting over the election and giving Captain Fisher a little friendly advice about it? Yes, we were.

1009. Tell us what you said about the beer? I said he could not expect people to come 12 or 14 miles to vote without asking them if they had a mouth. He said they could have plenty of tea and coffee, but he would not give one glass of beer if it would gain his election, or if it was a poor family he would put his hand in his pocket and give them a pound.

1010. Do you swear that Captain Fisher offered to give poor families a pound? He said if it was a poor family that wanted a pound he would give it, not alluding to voting.

1011. What advice did you give Captain Fisher? I told him that none of the Victorians would vote for him.

1012. Was that because he would not stand the beer? No; they want none of his beer, nor no one's else, at elections.

1013. Did you advise or talk with Mr. Solomon or his agents as to the conduct or management of the election? I did not.

1014. By what authority then did you engage carts and canvassers for the election for Mr. Solomon? By no authority at all.

1015. Did you not tell Mr. Solomon or Mr. Edwards that nearly all the Victorians were dead in his favour? I did not.

1016. Since the election was first spoken of, how many times have you been to Mr. Solomon's house? Once.

1017. How came you to be employed in Mr. Solomon's interest? Nobody did employ me.

1018. What were you paid for your services for Mr. Solomon? Nothing.

1019. From whom did you get the £3 paid to Thomson? Out of my own pocket.

1020. Why did you go to see Mr. Vince? I went to invite him down to the meeting.

1021. When you got there did you find him out to be a Solomonite? I found him out to be a Solomonite before I left the place.

1022. When you first went to his house, did he not tell you that he was supporting Captain Fisher? Not that I am aware of, and I don't believe he did.

1023. Will you swear that he did not tell you that he was going to vote for Captain Fisher? To the best of my belief he did not tell me to support Captain Fisher, barring that he saw Captain Fisher in Hobart Town, but that I will not be bound to swear.

1024. Did he not tell you that Captain Fisher would expect him to vote for him? He did not.

1025. Had you not to persuade him and talk him into voting for Solomon before he promised to do so? I had not.

1026. You have sworn that before you left the place he was a Solomonite. Was he not a Fisherite when you entered the doors? No, he was not, that I am aware of.

1027. How long were you talking to him before he became a Solomonite? About half an hour, while waiting for dinner.

1028. If Vince has told me personally that he promised to vote for Captain Fisher and work for him, will you not now on reconsideration admit that you talked him over at the interview in question? I will not admit it.

1029. Were you not nearly having a quarrel about it? We were not; we wanted no talking over it.

1030. If Mr. Vince told me that in order to avoid having words with you, and so that all the Victorian people might pull one way, he would at your request vote for Solomon, is he making a false statement? Yes.

1031. Did you at the interview offer to pay Mr. Vince any money for his horse and cart? No.

1032. Do you know when his horse and cart were engaged for Mr. Solomon? At the interview; providing his expenses were paid.

1033. What did you offer to pay him? Nothing.

1034. Did you promise him that the expenses would be paid? I did not.

1035. What money was he paid? I do not know.

1036. Was his horse and cart used on the day of election except to drive Vince himself down to the polling-place? No; not that I am aware of.

1037. Was Thomson's horse and cart engaged at the election? I do not know whether he took it to Kingston or not.

1038. Do you not know that Mr. Thomson walked to the election? I do not.

1039. If then neither the horse or cart of Vince or Thomson was used, they both got money for voting, did they not? I do not know.

1040. Who asked you to go and see Mr. Vince? No one. I went myself, by my own authority.

1041. Didn't you have a conversation with Edwards about Vince? After the public meeting.

1042. Can't you tell us the one occasion on which you were at Mr. Solomon's house? On occasion of Vince's fire fund. I went to ask him for something for it.

1043. Did you not go to his house to request him to stand? I did not. I did not know him.

1044. If you arranged with Vince and Thomson for their carts, why did you not see that they were used? I had not time.

1045. What amount of money have you paid away on account of this election? None at all, only the £3 that I gave to Thomson.

1046. Think again—is there not a voter not many yards from the Huon River to whom you gave money? No.

1047. Then it is correct that you paid away £3 out of your own pocket, and that you received nothing from Solomon or on his account? That is correct.

1048. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Was it before or after the election that you went to Mr. Solomon's house? After the election.

1049. Were you a Scrutineer at the election? Yes.

1050. Did you get paid for that? I got £5 some fortnight after for scrutineering, and I did not want it.

1051. Was that paid you in bank notes or by cheque? I think it was in cash. I am sure it was not by cheque.

1052. Did you receive anything beside this £5 for scrutineering for your services at the election? Not a penny piece.

1053. Did the offer as to Vince's horse and cart and trip to North West Bay come from you or from Vince? From Vince.

1054. Was that at Vince's house or on the way to the meeting? On the way to the meeting. He offered three or four times at different places.

1055. And after the meeting was over did you tell Mr. Edwards what Vince had said to you? Yes.

1056. Was the offer of his horse and cart and services made by Vince on the way over what you meant by the "interview?" Yes.

1057. When you told Coombes that you had arranged for a horse and cart, do you mean Vince's horse and cart? Yes.

1058. *By Mr. Dodery.*—You said that no one employed you on Solomon's account—what did you get the £5 for? For scrutineering, they told me.

1059. You said you were paid nothing for your services—was not the scrutineering a service? Yes.

1060. Were you not employed by Mr. Edwards to canvass? No: I told Mr. Edwards I would do what I could.

1061. If Mr. Edwards swears that you were employed by him is that true? No.

1062. *By the Chairman.*—When did the interview on the wharf take place? About two months before the election.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1880.

MR. W. G. MACMICHAEL *called in, sworn, and examined.*

1063. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Your name is William Gatehouse Macmichael,—you are Cashier of the Commercial Bank in Hobart Town? Yes.

1064. Does Mr. Solomon keep his banking account with you? Yes.

1065. Do you produce his account? Yes.

1066. Can you tell me whether any cheques were cashed by Mr. Solomon on 25th August last? Yes. [Witness refers to account and reads the following:—]

	£	s.		£	s.
Chas. Oates, payable to bearer.....	5	0	Young, payable to bearer	3	0
James Lucas, ditto	5	0	Baker, ditto	5	0
T. W. Lucas, ditto	10	0	Walsbe, ditto	5	0
R. W. Lucas, ditto	15	0	Thomas, ditto	5	0
Gilham, ditto	2	5	Lloyd, ditto	5	0
Harrison, ditto	3	0	Ward, ditto	3	0
Page, ditto	5	0	Sexton, ditto	10	0
Williamson, ditto	5	0	Blackwood, ditto	5	0
Howard, ditto	3	0	Watson, ditto	15	0
Cuthbert, ditto	5	0			

1067. Those cheques were cashed on the 25th August by Mr. Solomon? Yes.

1068. On the 30th July last did Mr. Solomon pay any cash into the Bank? Yes, £100; and on the 30th August £300.

1069. Does Mrs. Solomon, the wife of Mr. Joseph Solomon, keep an account with you? No.

1070. How was Mr. Solomon's cheque for £350 dated 7th June paid? £100 was paid in £5 notes, £100 in £1 notes, £100 in sovereigns, and £50 in half-sovereigns. The other cheque, 29th June, for £131 7s. 6d. was paid £100 in £5 notes, 31 £1 notes, and 7s. 6d. in silver.

1071. In July and August £400 appears to have been paid in: what moneys were paid in in May and June? In June £12 10s., in May nothing.

1072. Mr. Solomon is in the habit, I suppose, of paying in tolerably large sums to his credit, is he not? Yes.

1073. In March Mr. Solomon paid you £200, did he not? Yes.

GEORGE M'GUIRE *called in, sworn, and examined.*

1074. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Your name is George M'Guire, you reside at North West Bay? Yes.

1075. Do you know George Miles? I do.

1076. Do you remember receiving a letter from him shortly before the last Huon Election? Who was it addressed to? Mr. John Midson, of North West Bay.

1077. Did you deliver it to Mr. Midson? I did.

1078. Did you read the contents of the letter? I did.

1079. Where? At Mr. Midson's.

1080. What were the contents as far as you can remember? It stated that if Mr. Midson would go to Brown's River and vote, he would get £2 for his day's expenses—and I was to take him there and back in a chaise cart, and receive 10s. for so doing. It did not state for whom he was to vote.

1081. What did Midson say to that? He said he would not go if they would give him £40.

1082. Were Captain Fisher or Mr. Hay, or either of them, at Mr. Miles's the day you received the letter? I did not see either of them at Mr. Miles's house, but I understood from Mr. Miles that they were in the *Hastings* steamer the day before I received the letter from Mr. Miles.

1083. Did Miles mention any conversation with them? He told me that Mr. Fisher asked Mr. Miles if he thought he could get Mr. Midson to go up.

1084. What do you understand by "go up?" To go up to Kingston to vote.

1085. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Can you read writing—a letter? Yes. [Asks him to read out a letter. Witness says he cannot without glasses. Two pairs were offered to him and he still could not read it.]

1086. Can Mr. Midson read? Not very well. He could not read that very well when I took it to him.

1087. Was there anything in the letter about your getting 10s. to drive Mr. Midson over? I would not be positive as to that; Mr. Miles told me that himself.

HARRIET MIDSON *called in, sworn, and examined.*

1088. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Your name is Harriet Midson; you are a daughter of John Midson residing at North West Bay? Yes.

1089. Do you remember shortly before the last Huon election a letter from Mr. Miles being brought to your father? Yes.

1090. Did you see that letter yourself? Yes.

1091. Who brought it? Mr. M'Guire.

1092. Did you see its contents? Yes.

1093. Can you tell us what they were? It said that if my father would vote for Mr. Fisher he should receive £2 and Mr. M'Guire should drive him there and back in his horse and cart.

1094. Did you see the letter on more than one occasion? I saw it two or three times.

1095. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Did you read the letter more than once? Yes, more than once.

1096. The last witness says he read the letter? Yes; he read it when it first came.

1097. Mr. M'Guire has sworn that he read the letter and that it said nothing about voting for anybody, but simply about coming to vote; is that false? It is if that was what he said, because I am positive that the letter said "providing my father would vote for Mr. Fisher he should receive £2, and that Mr. M'Guire should drive him there and back free of expense."

1098. Who did you first tell your recollection of the contents of the letter to? I believe to Mr. William Worsley.

1099. How is it that you and Mr. M'Guire do not agree about this important part in the letter? Did George Miles in the letter say "vote for Capt. Fisher?" He did not say "Capt. Fisher" but "Mr." Fisher. I am not sure which it was, but I believe it was "Mr." Fisher.

1100. *By Mr. Doderly.*—Can your father read? Yes.

1101. Did he read the letter when it first came? Yes.

1102. How came M'Guire to read it then? Because father did not understand the writing at first, and Mr. M'Guire read it, and father read it after him. M'Guire leant over father's shoulder and read it aloud, and all the family that were present heard it.

MR. R. J. EDWARDS *sworn and examined.*

1103. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Were you in communication from time to time with Mr. Evans during the last Huon election? I never had any communication with Evans beyond occasionally meeting him when he would ask me how I was getting on. I had one written communication from him while I was at the Franklin requesting me to redirect any business letters which might come there for him. That is all the communication occurring before and at the time of the election which I had with him.

1104. Did you recognise any expenses incurred by Mr. Evans? No.

1105. Were you applied to by any persons for expenses incurred by him? I was; by Mr. T. W. Lucas of Kingston, who told me he had an hotel bill against Evans, which Evans had promised to pay, and had not done so.

1106. Did you pay it? I did not, telling him that I did not recognise anything that he did; that he had no authority from me to incur expense, and I declined to pay it, and have not paid it.

1107. Then he has not been paid up to the present day? No.

1108. Did any one else apply to you? Mr. Baynton applied to me for a fee for scrutineering. I told him that I had employed Mr. Gilham to do that work, and that I knew nothing of his appointment, and that I would not pay him.

1109. Do you remember having some conversation with Mr. Thos. Howard with regard to a cab and horses? I do.

1110. Can you state what passed between you? In the early part of April last I was at Mr. Howard's, and he told me that he had two cabs which he kept for hire, and asked me to give him a turn. I told him it was a country election, but I might want one, and would let him know.

1111. Did you make any agreement with him then for a cab? No; I said nothing further than that I might want a cab. About two months after this conversation with Howard, and a few days before I left town with Mr. Solomon for the Huon, I thought it was possible that a cab might be wanted to convey the town residents down to Kingston; and as Mr. Pierce Baker, who is a cab proprietor as well as a butcher, had interested himself on behalf of Mr. Solomon, I engaged with him to furnish a cab to take down any town voters that might want a conveyance. For that reason I selected him in preference to Howard.

1112. Do you know Mr. George Lucas? I do.

1113. George Lucas has stated in his evidence (109)—“I received a letter from Mr. Edwards stating that Mr. Solomon would be a candidate for the Huon. It stated that he would be down and see me at a certain date, and that he would see every elector in the district with me or alone.” Is that correct? Very incorrect. My letter to George Lucas stated that it was currently reported that Mr. Robertson was about to resign; that an address to Mr. Solomon was in course of signature, and that I would be down with it at Kingston in a few days; that I was desirous of bespeaking his (Lucas's) services to aid me in obtaining signatures.

1114. When you saw Mr. Lucas on the occasion mentioned by him did you refer to that letter? I did. On the morning I think of the 14th April last I saw George Lucas at his orchard.

1115. You heard his evidence as to the interview that took place between you. Is that a correct account of it? It is very far from being correct.

1116. Will you state the particulars of that interview? On my seeing Lucas I asked him “Did you get my note?” He said “Yes.” I had the address in my hand at the time, and remarked “This is the address I alluded to.” I pointed out to him that it contained no pledge, but was merely an invitation to Mr. Solomon to make a public statement of his political views, and I commenced to read the address. In doing so Lucas, whom I was standing very close to, nudged me with his elbow, and interrupted me by saying “What about the sugar?” I just stepped back one step from him, looked him in the face, and said “None of your tens and twenties if Solomon is returned.” He laughingly held up his hands twice with his fingers extended in that way [showing it]. I joined in the laugh. I added, however, “I am not in a position at present to make any arrangements, as it depends upon the number of signatures I obtain to this address, and the feeling of the electorate generally, whether or not Mr. Solomon becomes a candidate. However, if you do give your services you will be dealt no worse with than you were at the last (meaning the last election); but bear in mind Solomon is not Foster.” Upon that he said “I will. I hear that Fisher is coming out. If Fisher comes out I am a Fisherman.” I then took out a memo. book from my pocket, in which I had the names of the several voters that I intended to call upon, and asked him to direct me the nearest way to James Lucas's. He directed me.

1117. Is that substantially all that passed between you and Mr. George Lucas? I believe I have got it word for word, and in the actual sequence.

1118. Then his statement that you made such an offer as is alleged is incorrect? Yes; thoroughly false.

1119. Were you present at a public meeting held by Mr. Solomon at the *Picnic*, Victoria, on the 7th June last? I was.

1120. Was Robert Vince there? He was at the meeting.

1121. Did you see him take any part at the meeting? I did.

1122. What part did he take? I noticed that when a motion was put by the Chairman, that Mr. Solomon was a fit and proper person to represent them in the Legislative Council, Vince was one of the first to hold up his hand; and after the meeting Vince joined in the general conversation, amongst Mr. Solomon's supporters, and I heard him say that he had never voted before but would do so this time; and he asked me to point out the way in which they voted, and I described to him the method. Shortly after the meeting Charles Oates came to me and told me that he had visited Vince in the morning; that Vince had

promised to support Mr. Solomon, and was willing to go to N. W. Bay and canvass, and furnish a horse and cart for use on the polling day if required.

1123. Was Robert Vince a stranger to you? I have known Vince by name and sight for nearly the last 30 years—and his father before him.

1124. In consequence of what Oates told you, did you have any conversation with Vince? I did.

1125. Referring to Questions 205 and 206. Did you make the statements therein mentioned? I did not.

1126. Did you make any reference to the chaffing referred to by Vince? I did not. I never heard of any chaffing.

1127. Will you tell us what passed between you and Vince on that day? About an hour after the meeting—it might have been a little more—and the attendants were about leaving, I saw Vince pass through the verandah where I was standing, and go towards the stables. I called him. "I said Vince, I have seen Oates, and he has told me of your offer to go to North West Bay and to furnish your horse and cart on the polling day provided your expenses are paid; are you of the same mind still?" He said "I am; I know Worsley over there from a boy, and I think I could do some good with two or three others." I then said "Well, Vince, I will engage your services," and I handed him 5 sovereigns. I said "Go early." He replied "If I cannot go early enough or anything should prevent me, I will send one of my sons who will do quite as well." I then saw him leave with his two sons. That is all that took place between us.

1128. Is Worsley a voter? Yes.

1129. Do you know a man named Coombes? I do.

1130. Is he a voter? Yes.

1131. He is a cripple, is not he? I have heard that he is suffering from an attack of the gout.

1132. When did you hear this, before or after your interview with Vince? About a week before.

1133. Did you hear whom he was going to support? I understood that he was a supporter of Mr. Solomon's.

1134. Had you him at all in your mind when you made this arrangement with Vince? Yes: him especially.

1135. Was Richard Pybus a scrutineer for Mr. Solomon at Barnes' Bay? Yes.

1136. Will you state the circumstances under which he was employed? Some time before the election Mr. Samuel Young, of Barnes' Bay, spoke to me respecting the election. I told him I was desirous of obtaining his services as a scrutineer. He replied that he did not know much about it; that he had never been employed at that work before. I said, "Perhaps Mr. Pybus will help you; and if Mr. Pybus does act as scrutineer with you I will give £3 now, and if Pybus assists you I will give another £1; that will make £2 each;" which Young agreed to do.

1137. Your arrangement was made with Young then? Yes, with Young; I never saw Mr. Pybus.

1138. Do you remember going to Peter Good's house on the 14th June last with Mr. Solomon and Mr. Cuthbert? I can't fix the date. It must have been somewhere about that time.

1139. Peter Good has stated [Questions 598 and 599 read.] Is that a correct statement of the interview? It is not; it is an incorrect statement.

1140. What did take place on that occasion? After some conversation with Mr. Good, Miss Good addressed Mr. Solomon, saying jokingly, "What will you give me for my vote and interest, Mr. Solomon?" Mr. Solomon replied, "Good roads." Miss Good rejoined, "That is not in my line." I joined in the conversation jokingly: "If you had a vote, a hat and dress would be more in your line." Miss Good replied, "That I don't want." The whole conversation commenced jokingly and ended so.

1141. Did you employ Mr. Oates as a canvasser? No, I found him at work when I first went to the Huon. About a week before I went to the Huon I had sent on Mr. Solomon's address to the hotel keepers at Victoria, Franklin, and Port Cygnet, requesting them as they saw voters to get them to sign it. On my arrival at the Huon I found that several persons had signed the address; and that Oates, James Lucas, and Samuel Page at Victoria; Cuthbert and Thomas at the Franklin, and Mr. Richard Hill at Port Cygnet had employed themselves in obtaining signatures; consequently I considered all these persons canvassers. I made no agreement with either of them, but I know that they occasionally canvassed up to the day of election. From amongst these persons named I selected my scrutineers, and when estimating the expenses I was not unmindful of their services, and claimed for them a liberal fee, which was neither objected to by Mr. Solomon or the election auditor.

1142. Did Oates ask you for his fee? No, he did not.

1143. [Reads Questions 63 and 64.]—Had you any committee at the Huon? No; that requires explanation. I used a room in Mr. Watson's house called the "Committee Room" for Mr. Solomon to hold his public meetings in; and it is called the "Committee Room" from being the place where the Road Trusts hold their meetings.

1144. Then when you spoke of the committee room that is the room you alluded to? Yes; I had no committee either before or after the election.

1145. [Referring to Questions 66 to 69.] Have you any explanation to make with regard to that after your evidence to-day? My impression then and now is that the examining counsel was desirous of getting at all my transactions at Watson's house; particularly when he said, "Did you see Vince there;" and my answer meant, I did not see Vince at Watson's house, nor offer any money for his vote at Watson's house, nor pay him any money for the election at Watson's house. My engagement of Vince's services took place three weeks before the election, and was at the Picnic at Victoria.

1146. William Robert Lucas has stated in his evidence that after the election you paid him £25; how was that made up? I had claimed for him £15 through the Election Auditor; but on settling with him he told me there was some £8 or £9, he could not say exactly what the amount was as he had kept the account on a slate, and some of it might have been rubbed out; I said, "I do not like these accounts without knowing exactly what there is; perhaps next week you will say there is something more—will £10 satisfy all these sort of claims?" He said "Yes." With that I gave him the £10 extra.

1147. Then is the item £15 in the Auditor's account correct? Quite correct, as far as I claimed it then.

1148. Had you been at the *Picnic* before? Three or four times by myself, and twice or thrice with Mr. Solomon. Mr. Solomon was there with his carriage and servants.

1149. It appears from Mr. Solomon's banking account that on 8th June last he drew a cheque in your favour for £350: will you explain the circumstances under which you got that cheque, and what you did with the proceeds? In the early part of June, previous to the 7th, I had some conversation with Mr. Solomon regarding the probable expenses of the election, I then told him that I thought it would be from £250 to £300. I described to him the nature of the electorate, the number of polling-places, and the distances apart. On the 7th June he gave me a cheque for the £350, which I drew in cash from the bank, and took it to Mr. Solomon at his residence. We started that day for the Huon on a canvassing tour. Shortly before starting Mr. Solomon gave me £80 in notes and sovereigns, telling me to repay myself £34 which I had laid out in my canvassing with the address, and to use the remainder for personal expenses during that tour. I did so, and found that I expended a little more than the £46 in the personal expenses mentioned.

1150. After the election did you make up the accounts? Yes, a few days after the election I made up an estimate of the expenses, and suggested that they should be paid by cheque exactly as I had made them out. I did this owing to a report in circulation that I had better be careful what I did, and that the petitioner had stated that Mr. Solomon should not take his seat.

1151. What did that nominal estimate amount to? £131 odd.

1152. Did that include any item due to yourself? No.

1153. In Mr. Solomon's banking account it appears that on the 29th June last he drew a cheque in your favour for £131 7s. 6d.; what was that cheque for? That is the cheque for meeting the whole of the expenses which I have named.

1154. How did you pay those election expenses? In cash, out of the proceeds of that cheque.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1880.

MR. EDWARDS's examination continued.

1155. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—I find that the cheque of which you spoke yesterday was for £131 7s. 6d. out of which you paid the election expenses, while in the return to the Election Auditor the amount is put down at £114. How do you explain that? In that amount when settling with Mr. Solomon for this cheque I included the sum of £10 to William Robert Lucas as appeared in my evidence of yesterday, £5 which I paid to Vince for his services, £1 to Langford for the use of his horse to go to Shipwright's Point, £1 to Thomas Junior for the use of his boat in taking me to Petchey's and Glazier's Bay; thus making the £17 additional, making the cheque £131 with 7s. 6d. for postage stamps.

1156. Was any part of your fee included in that cheque? No.

1157. How was your fee arranged for then? [Account current between witness and Mr. Solomon produced.] On the 9th August Mr. Solomon came to my office to settle with me respecting my fee. I then told him that Wm. Cuthbert would not accept the £5 as claimed by me for him; that Mr. Williamson and Blackwood would not claim their £5 each; and that Howard had told me he had been paid £2; consequently there was £17 to my credit. Mr. Solomon then gave me the balance £33, making my fee £50.

1158. Why did you put Howard down for £3? Because when Howard applied to me for payment I denied my responsibility, but on his telling me "you recollect saying that you might want a cab, and I consider that you are morally if not legally bound to pay me," I was induced to claim the £3; but I subsequently found that he had been paid £2, which he complained about, and I gave him £1 out of my own pocket.

1159. Why did you pay him that £1 out of your own pocket? I felt that I was morally responsible for it, Howard having let the cab, as he told me, owing to my having said that I might want one.

1160. Then you simply paid that £1 out of your own pocket? Yes.

1161. You told us yesterday that you made out a nominal statement after the election of the election expenses. Was that for the Election Auditor? Yes.

1162. Is it usual for Election Agents to pay the expenses before they make their returns to the Election Auditor? I have done so for the last five and twenty years.

1163. Did you afterwards receive a letter from the Election Auditor? I did. I produce it. [Letter put in and read by Mr. Edwards.]

1164. In consequence of having received that letter what did you do? I filled up 19 cheques according to the nominal return, and sent them on to the Election Auditor for him to countersign them, and then gave them to Mr. Solomon to pass through his bank.

1165. Are those the 19 cheques now in possession of the Committee, and referred to by Mr. Mac-michael in his evidence yesterday? They are.

1166. Then what do the expenses of the election proper amount to? Deducting my fee and the personal expenses of myself and Mr. Solomon, the cost of the election proper is about £130.

1167. The addition to that of personal expenses and your fee of £50 makes up the total, as shown in the account current, of £244 15s. 0d.? That is correct.

1168. You have had considerable experience as an Election Agent, have you not? I have, for many years.

1169. Speaking from your experience what would you say as to the costs of this election? Considering the duration of the contest—nearly 4 months—the extent of the electorate, the number of public meetings, and polling places to provide for, I deem it as cheaply conducted an election as I ever had the management of.

1170. Do you remember being present at a cattle sale held at Victoria some time before the election? I do, and was present there.

1171. Did you see Captain Fisher and Mr. Gray there? I saw them arrive together in the coach.

1172. What were you and Captain Fisher doing down there? We were both very actively engaged in canvassing the electors who attended that sale.

1173. How was Mr. Gray employing himself? He was equally as actively engaged in treating all those who would partake of it.

1174. Could Captain Fisher have seen any of this treating? He must, unless he shut his eyes.

1175. Did you see Mr. Gray at Port Cygnet before the election? I did; he accompanied Captain Fisher there.

1176. Did you see him do any treating there? He carried on treating just in the same manner as he did at the *Picnic*.

1177. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Who looked after the election at Kingston in Mr. Solomon's interest on the day of the election? The only person that I knew of was Mr. Williamson.

1178. Was not Mr. Evans there the whole day? I do not know. I was at the Huon.

1179. Are you going to pledge your oath to that, that you did not know? Did you not hear that Evans was there? I heard that he was at Kingston several times, and believe that he was there on the polling day.

1180. Do you believe that he was doing any work for Mr. Solomon on the polling day? I cannot say. I have no belief about the matter, because I do not know.

1181. Had you a quarrel with Evans after the election? I have had no quarrel with him.

1182. Nor during the election? Nor during the election.

1183. Did you make at any time a charge against Evans to the effect that he had misapplied moneys entrusted to him by you or Mr. Solomon for the purposes of the election? I did not.

1184. Did you hear Mr. Solomon at any time say that Evans had neglected his interests, or anything to that effect? I heard Mr. Solomon say that he had nothing to thank him for, and that he would have been better without him.

1185. When? I cannot say when; certainly some time after the election; in the course of conversation.

1186. Did you hear of a letter that was sent by certain voters at Kingston to Mr. Solomon, saying that Evans had done his best? I heard of a letter being sent to Mr. Solomon, but I know nothing of the contents of the letter.

1187. What did you hear about the letter? I heard that some one had been accusing Evans of getting drunk, and the letter in question I suppose was to deny that Evans was drunk.

1188. Do you know who caused that letter to be written? No.

1189. Was it not a matter of common notoriety? Not to my knowledge.

1190. Did not many of the electors sign it, to the best of your belief? I have not heard whether it was signed by 1 or 20.

1191. What witnesses have you summoned and have not called? Miss Good was one, Mr. Lucas was one. I do not know whether there was one or two Lucases.

1192. Bromfield was a man you summoned and have not called? I do not know him, even by name.

1193. Do you remember the date of any time when Evans was drunk? I know nothing of any date.

1194. You told George Lucas that he should be dealt with no worse at this election than he was at the last, meaning Foster's? I did not use those words.

1195. What did you say? It was part of an answer I made to him when I told him that I was not in a position at present to make any arrangements, as it depended upon the number of signatures I obtained to this address, and the feeling of the electors generally whether Mr. Solomon became a candidate or not; but "if you do give your services you will be dealt with no worse than at the last, but recollect Solomon is not Foster."

1196. What did you mean by saying that he would be dealt with no worse than at the last? I meant in the same manner as I had dealt with him in the election between Messrs. Robertson and Evans, as Lucas was then employed by me as a canvasser.

1197. Did you know or hear that Lucas had taken bribes at previous elections? I have heard it frequently spoken of, but I have no means of judging of its truth.

1198. You were very anxious to secure his services for Mr. Solomon? Not at all.

1199. When was the first time that you saw Vince about the election? On the 7th June, on the day of Mr. Solomon's public meeting at the *Picnic*.

1200. I am going to produce a witness who, I believe, will say that the statement you have just made is a deliberate untruth: do you still adhere to that statement? I do not recollect seeing him during the whole of the election until I saw him at the *Picnic*. I have no recollection of having seen him.

1201. Did you not see Vince before that date, and have some conversation with him about his taking money for his vote? Will you swear that you did not? I have no recollection of seeing him or speaking to him about the election previous to the 7th June.

1202. Before that date did you not yourself hear Vince say that he wanted £10 for his vote, or words to that effect? I will not swear that it was not so.

1203. Did you not know or hear that Vince said he wanted £10 for his vote, or something to that effect? I neither knew, nor to my recollection did I hear.

1204. Did you ask anybody whether they thought that Vince would be satisfied with less than £10? Not to my recollection.

1205. You may have done so? I may, but it is very improbable.

1206. Is it true what Vince says, that when you paid him you walked round one way and he round another? If Vince has said that I walked one way and he the other he is mistaken.

1207. Why? Because I saw Vince pass through the verandah where I was standing, and I followed him.

1208. Did Vince do anything for the election for you or for Mr. Solomon? I am not aware: I was employed at the Franklin some miles away.

1209. Why did you pay him 5 sovereigns—on the chance that he might do something, was it? I paid him 5 sovereigns to go over to North West Bay to canvass, and to furnish a horse and cart on the polling day.

1210. If Vince says that he did not promise to go to any trouble, (Question 312) is that false? That would depend upon what he considers trouble; but if he says that he did not undertake to canvass at North West Bay, and to furnish his horse and cart on the polling day, it would not be correct.

1211. If Vince says that the money was not given to him for canvassing, was that false? Yes.

1212. I asked you when you were examined before, whether you offered Vince money on any account for the election, and you explain that by saying you thought I asked you whether you offered him money at Watson's house—don't you know quite well that my question was a general one and not confined to Watson's house? My impression was the question especially referred to my transactions at Watson's house.

1213. When did you pay the people who are mentioned in the auditor's account—before or after the election? After the election.

1214. That would be the usual and business-like mode of dealing with them, I suppose? Some things are paid before the election; many personal matters that you might feel it desirable to pay at once.

1215. Canvassers are not paid before the election as a rule? Most of them are partially paid, and some of them are wholly paid.

1216. Did you not pay Vince before the election and before you knew whether he had done any work, in order to secure his vote? No; not in order to secure his vote, for he had previously promised to vote for Mr. Solomon.

1217. Why did you not put Vince's name down in the auditor's account? Because he was included in some other expenses that, according to the Electoral Act, ought to have been reported to the election auditor before the nomination day, but as I had no convenience in the country for making such a report I did not think it was worth while making it after the election, when it should have been made before the day of nomination.

1218. Did you not formerly swear that this statement contained a true account of your expenses? Yes: as furnished to the auditor.

1219. No: not as furnished to the auditor. Did you not put that statement in as a true account of all the expenses incurred in the election? I did, as far as I knew of to that time.

1220. Then why did you not tell us that you had left out Vince's money? Because I was not asked.

1221. And yet you swore that this is a true account? So it is a true account.

1222. Why did you not put down Pybus's expenses? Because it was included in the £3 claimed for Samuel Young.

1223. What did Young get in the whole? £3; and there is another £1 due to him when he comes for it.

1224. Then how much between them did they get? That would make them £2 each, when he [Young] receives the £1.

1225. Has Williamson received his £5? No.

1226. That you swear? That I swear—not from me.

1227. I refer you to Question 62 of your former evidence. Williamson, you say, did not act as canvasser. You paid him £5. Your answer was, "That was as scrutineer." How do you explain this? I

claimed the money from Mr. Solomon, who included it in that cheque, and I subsequently got the election auditor's authority to pay it, but Mr. Williamson has not yet received it from me.

1228. When you made this account up for the auditor you knew that it was said that Mr. Solomon would be petitioned against for bribery? I did not know. I had heard before I left the Huon that the petitioner stated that Mr. Solomon should not take his seat; but I knew nothing about any proceedings for bribery. That return [indicating it] was made out a full month before any proceedings were taken.

1229. After you had heard of the possibility of proceedings? After I had heard that Mr. Fisher had stated that Mr. Solomon should not take his seat. It is part of the usual chit-chat which takes place after every election.

1230. You did not pay much attention to it? I did not pay much attention to it.

1231. Is the answer to Question 1150 true; namely, that you suggested that payments should be made by cheque, owing to a report in circulation that you had better be careful what you did, and that the petitioner had stated that Mr. Solomon should not take his seat? My answer is, that the answer I have just given is substantially the same; I treated these reports as mere chit-chat.

1232. Did you furnish a report to the Election Auditor as to the last election at the Huon you were engaged in? I do not recollect; sometimes I have done so, and sometimes I have not.

1233. Are not the provisions of the Act as to the audit of accounts practically a dead letter? They have been during my experience as an Election Agent, for it would be impossible almost to comply with some of the requirements of the Act.

1234. Is it not the fact that you as an agent have not been in the habit of sending in accounts to the Auditor? I have frequently done so, but I have not always done so. The last few elections that I have been engaged in I have done so. I may add that I have invariably paid my men previous to making those reports.

1235. What does the item £46 10s. for personal expenses include? The printing, one office about £10 (*The Mercury*), Mr. Gill's for circulars, some £2 or £3 I think, the purchase of rolls and polling lists, postage stamps, and myself and Mr. Solomon's travelling expenses on our tour at Kingston and the Huon.

1236. Notwithstanding the item of 7s. 6d. for postage stamps which you have told us of, stamps were also included in personal expenses? The whole of the stamps amounted to near £3, and there was a second lot of 7s. 6d. I sent for which was not made up in my first account with Mr. Solomon.

1237. The item personal expenses included all the travelling expenses also? Not all the travelling expenses. It did not include Lucas's cart claim.

1238. Why are not the extra travelling expenses put down in the auditor's account? Because I did not think it worth while.

1239. When did you first furnish this account current to Mr. Solomon,—on your oath? I cannot say exactly the date, but some few days after the election. Not that one, but a copy of that one, in the rough. I think it was the day before the day on which he gave me the cheque for £131 7s. 6d.

1240. A few days after the election you say? Two or three days after the election.

1241. And you were able to show him the balance? I put down all that I thought would be claimed. That is a copy of the rough which I made out the accounts from.

1242. Did you canvass Charles Harrison, of the Caves, Brown's River, for his vote? Yes.

1243. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—There is a memorandum at the foot of the account current put in by you—Why did you put that memo.? To account for the absence of cheque £114 5s.

1244. Was that in the account that you gave to Mr. Solomon? I never furnished him with a written account at all, I only showed it to him—that memo. I attached specially for the information of this Committee.

1245. I suppose while acting as election agent you hear a great deal of gossip everywhere? Yes.

1246. Do you profess to charge your memory with, and be able to repeat all the gossip you happen to hear? I should be very sorry to do so.

1247. *By Mr. Dodery.*—Referring to Question 70—Is that correct? Yes; the election did not take place till the 23rd June, and it was on the 14th April that I saw him,—that would be about 10 weeks. At that time I had not accepted the agency for Mr. Solomon, but was merely employed to get the address signed. Mr. Solomon had not then announced himself as a candidate.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1880.

MR. EDWARDS *re-sworn and further examined.*

1248. *By Mr. Dobson.*—You said yesterday that you canvassed Charles Harrison, of the Caves, Brown's River, for his vote? No: there is a Harrison of Port Cygnet of whom I spoke.

1249. Did you lead Harrison or any person to suppose that if he voted for Solomon his name would be mentioned to the Attorney-General, in order that it might be put on the Commission of the Peace? I have no recollection of making any such statement to any one.

1250. Will you swear you did not? I swear I did not.

MR. CHARLES HOLLINSDALE *called in, sworn, and examined.*

1251. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is Charles Hollinsdale, you are a fruit and seed merchant in Liverpool-street? Yes.

1252. Do you deal with a man named Robert Vince, of Longley, for produce? Yes, I have bought of him, more or less, since 1851.

1253. Did anything take place between Edwards, yourself, and Vince with reference to the late election for the Huon? Yes, Mr. Edwards came round to me and asked when or where he could find Vince. I told him he would be at my house at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning. He came and found him there. He spoke to him about a vote for Mr. Solomon. He asked him for his vote for Mr. Solomon, and he (Vince) said he should want £10 for his vote if he should give it. Vince then jumped on to the wagon and went away, and Mr. Edwards came back to the shop to me and asked me if I didn't think he could get it for something less than that. Then he said I was to be sure to send Mr. Vince to him. I told him that he would come back to me for his money that day at 12 o'clock. I told Mr. Vince what Mr. Edwards said. I told him to go down to Captain Fisher, and asked him to give his vote for Captain Fisher. I did not see any more of him until after the election. He said he would vote for Captain Fisher, and he told me he would go down and see Captain Fisher.

1254. When did all this take place? I did not take particular notice. It was either the Saturday or the Saturday week before the election.

1255. Did you see anything of Vince after the election? Yes, he came in the Saturday following the election.

1256. What took place? I said "You are a pretty fellow to promise me a vote and did not do it." [Objected to. Objection overruled.] He said it was Mr. Fisher's own fault, for he was quite sure he would have been five or six ahead, but there were four or five of them standing together and one of them went and asked Mr. Fisher to give them something to drink, and Mr. Fisher said "It is for your own conscience; I shall give you nothing, whether you vote or not."

1257. Mr. Edwards in the evidence he gave yesterday has denied that he knew that Vince asked £10 for his vote, and that he knew that Vince wanted £10 for his vote, and that he had any conversation with Vince about money, or for his vote. Do you still say that what you have sworn is true? Yes. I have no interest in the district only for the sake of Mr. Fisher; that is all I have.

1258. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Will you fix the date on which this alleged interview took place at your shop? It was either the Saturday or the Saturday week before the election.

1259. The election was on the 23rd June? I do not know when the election was. I only know it was the Saturday or the Saturday week before the election.

1260. Which of those two days do you think it was? I think most likely it was the Saturday week.

1261. Then it took place either on the 19th or the 12th June? On one of those two Saturdays. I could not tell you the day of the month.

1262. There is no mistake about that? There can't be any mistake.

1263. If we prove beyond all doubt that on both of those days Mr. Edwards was not in town at all, but down in the Huon district, what would you say then? I say that on one of those days he came to my shop and asked for Mr. Vince.

1264. Do you know that Mr. Vince has given evidence here on behalf of Captain Fisher? He told me so.

1265. Did you have any conversation with him or with any one else about the evidence which he had given here? He told me himself that he had been here and given his evidence. I asked him if he had got the £10 which he asked. He said he might have got half of it.

1266. At this alleged interview at your shop did Mr. Edwards offer Mr. Vince any money for his vote? No, he did not.

1267. Mr. Vince has sworn as follows:—[Questions 206 and 207]. Did Vince say what was true or false? He said what was false, and very false.

1268. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Assuming that it is proved beyond doubt that Mr. Edwards was not in town on either of those two Saturdays which you have mentioned, then you would be mistaken in the particular day? It might have been a previous Saturday, but I am quite certain it was close to the election.

1269. Why do you fix a Saturday? Does Vince come to you on a Saturday? Every Saturday, with vegetables.

1270. Supposing you are wrong in the date you have given, do you still swear that you have given a truthful account of what took place? I have; the conversation took place at some time.

1271. *By Dr. Crowther.*—You found your recollection of this conversation on the circumstance that it was close to the election? Yes.

MR. JAMES GRAY *called in, sworn, and examined.*

1272. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is James Gray, you are a gentleman residing in Hobart Town? Yes.

1273. Do you remember going down to the Franklin on the night that Captain Fisher held his meeting there? I recollect going to the Franklin on the 15th June in the coach as far as Victoria. I dined at Victoria and went then on to the Franklin. It was a very wet day, and we—Messrs. John Hay, senior and junior, Mr. Langridge of the *Mercury*, and Captain Fisher, pulled up at Mr. Watson's, the

hotel. Mr. Watson could not find accommodation for anyone except myself, and we then proceeded to the next hotel. We arrived there about a quarter or twenty minutes past 4 o'clock. We had then our tea, and the public meeting was held I think about 7 o'clock.

1274. Mr. William Mead has given evidence and said that you asked him to send for Peter Good? I did.

1275. What took place? Good arrived within half an hour that same afternoon.

1276. Mead says that he did not come till the following morning: is that true? It is not.

1277. When he came, what took place? I had a conversation with him about the election, and told him I thought the Captain would be beaten from the way in which the oracle was being worked.

1278. What do you mean by "the oracle being worked?" If you appoint a scrutineer and an outdoor agent where there are only three electors, I don't see much chance for a candidate who has not the same opportunity or the same advantage. I knew Good was a supporter of the Captain's prior to my coming down, and that was why I sent for him.

1279. At any time did you ask Mead to "sling Good a couple of notes?" On my oath, no; not then or at any other time. It is not my language; nor should I like to employ such an agent.

1280. Why would you not like to employ such an agent as Mead? Because I would not trust him.

1281. Would you believe him on his oath? As his testimony is in conflict with mine I had rather not answer the question. His character is well known in Hobart Town.

1282. Did you make a remark to Mead that Peter Good has just collared the two sovereigns, or anything of that kind? No; for I had no sovereigns with me.

1283. Mead has sworn that you showed him two sovereigns in your hand. Is that true? My answer is it is simply manufactured evidence.

1284. What money had you with you? I changed a cheque of my own at Mr. Peck's on the morning on which I went away, for which he gave me a note and a pound in silver, for I wanted to pay my coach fare and expenses on the road. I think I had about two and twenty shillings when I was at Mead's, for it was a sale day, and I had stopped at the *Picnic* for a couple of hours.

1285. Did you say to Mead that Peter Good was a towney of yours, or something to that effect? Impossible; Peter Good is a Munster man, County Cork; I am from the north. I may add, I have known Good for the last 30 years as a personal friend of my own, at whose house I was always welcome, and he at mine.

1286. Did you pay or offer Good any money on account of the election? On my oath, no; nor any other elector, except where I paid my hotel bills, and they were supporters of the sitting member.

1287. What took place at the meeting that night with reference to Captain Fisher and yourself treating? Mr. Thomas took the chair. There was a large meeting of electors and non-electors. Captain Fisher addressed the meeting at considerable length. In the course of his address he stated if one pint of beer or one sixpence would secure him his election, he would not pay it. A gentleman in the room, Mr. Cuthbert, challenged Mr. Fisher's statement. He said the Captain was simply throwing dust in the eyes of the electors, as he had Mr. Gray doing that work for him. Mr. Watson also, an elector, spoke in the same strain. Captain Fisher repudiated, with some amount of warmth, having anything whatever to do with my actions in connection with treating. I defended myself from the imputation of corrupt treating, saying, that when I went out into any country district I exercised my rights of hospitality without reference to Captain Fisher or any one else. I may add, there are a large number of my fellow countrymen in the Huon District that I am in the habit of meeting in Hobart Town and when I visit the district, and that I made no distinction whatever as regards their social position or their religion. I deal with the Presbyterian, the Episcopalian, and the Roman Catholic alike, no matter where I go. After the meeting was over I thought it was but right to go to Mr. Watson's with his friends, Mr. Solomon's supporters; and I there extended to them some hospitality.

1288. Did you extend hospitality to Solomon's supporters? Of course I did, to people who I knew would vote for Solomon; Captain Fisher's supporters were almost all total abstainers.

1289. Was this where Mr. Solomon was staying? Mr. Solomon, I think, was not there then. I did not see him.

1290. Had any of the men at the public-house heard Captain Fisher repudiate anything that you did in the way of treating? They all heard it that were at the meeting.

1291. What next? I returned to Mead's. I think Mr. Watson came down with me, and after having some refreshments at Mead's he showed me to my bedroom. I got up early in the morning. I saw he had a fine flock of ducks, and I asked him to kill and send me a pair. He did, and I brought them home with me. I paid my bill by cheque, getting some change to help me on my road home. I started by the half-past 9 o'clock coach on the morning of the 16th, as I wanted to get my English letters, which were to be delivered on the night of the 16th, and I did get them, Mr. Langridge returning with me. Mr. H. B. Evans did not return. He remained in the Huon district to go up to the Upper Huon to the Mountain River to canvass the electors. He was a strong and able and excellent supporter of Mr. Solomon's. I had conversations with him on my way down about the election, and he said he was going to see the electors at the Upper Huon.

1292. Did he say anything to you of Edwards' appointment as election agent? He did say that he had secured the agency for Mr. Edwards. [Objects to repeat any private conversation.]

1293. Do you remember one elector named Walshe who lives at Port Cygnet? Do you know whether he promised to vote for Captain Fisher? I think he did promise to vote for him.

1294. What do you know about him? After seeing my friend Mr. Edwards he changed his mind. He attended the meeting at Port Cygnet, prior to which meeting I had the pleasure of introducing to Mr.

Solomon Mr. Matthew Fitzpatrick, a magistrate and elector there, who took the chair for Mr. Solomon. I also introduced Mr. Hill to Mr. Solomon, who proposed that Mr. Solomon was a fit and proper person to represent the district, and whilst Mr. Edwards was engaged in his private room I introduced Mr. Solomon to some other of the electors. I also wished that Captain Fisher and he should be good friends, and that the election should be contested in an amicable way, and without any feeling on either side. I saw that it was getting late on the Friday when the meeting at Port Cygnet was held. I was anxious, out of regard for Mr. Solomon's Sabbath, that Captain Fisher's meetings should follow at once, and that the two meetings should be got over as quickly as possible, the same chairman acting for both meetings. On the following morning I was coming away, and Walshe walked up the road with myself, Captain Fisher, and Mr. Hay, jun. He apologised to me for turning round and going over to Mr. Solomon. My reply was, "You have a perfect right to do as you like, to exercise your voting power as you choose. It can make no difference to either you or me." That is all that took place.

1295. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Did you accompany Captain Fisher during his canvassing tour through the Huon district? No, not through the whole of the district.

1296. Where did you go? I went to Brown's River, to Port Cygnet, and the Franklin, and Victoria, and attended his meetings at those places. I asked Captain Fisher whether he had any objection to my attending his meetings—or would allow me to accompany him to his meetings. I did so because having previously met Captain Fisher and seen it notified that he was likely to contest the Huon, or that a Good Templar was, I would advise him to form a strong committee of his friends in Hobart Town, that I should be one of them. He replied "I shall have no committee: I shall accept no pecuniary aid from anyone: if I contest the district I shall contest it without spending one shilling, and pay my personal expenses and advertising."

1297. But you went with him? Yes.

1298. Do you remember a meeting held by Captain Fisher at Victoria—what date was that? I think it was the 10th June [referring to a cheque book]. Yes, it was the 10th June. It was a Thursday, I think; for we went to Port Cygnet on the following day, and that was Friday.

1299. Did you attend that meeting? Yes.

1300. Where did you go to from that meeting? To Mr. William Lucas's, the *Picnic*. Captain Fisher and myself and Mr. Langridge put up there.

1301. Where did you go the next day? To Port Cygnet.

1302. How many times were you at the Franklin during the election? Only once at the Franklin, I mean the township. That was on the 15th. I arrived on the same day at about a quarter past 4 o'clock.

1303. Was that the day of Captain Fisher's meeting? Yes. It was the day of the sale at Victoria. I remained at Victoria to see some friends and then went on.

1304. Where did you sleep on the night of the meeting? At Mead's.

1305. I think you said you were at Watson's after Captain Fisher's meeting? Yes. I accompanied Watson and his friends up to his house.

1306. Were there several voters there? Yes, there were.

1307. Peter Good has stated in his evidence [reads Question 297]. Is that correct? Quite correct. I have already stated so. I treated them all.

1308. [Reads Questions 291 and 292.] Is that correct? Yes. I said it was Captain Fisher who was conducting it on teetotal principles. I think it was an empty bottle I held in my hand. It showed how short a time a bottle would last among the Huon men. They are all good drinking men at the Huon except Captain Fisher's supporters.

1309. Was Peter Good a supporter of Captain Fisher's? He was.

1310. Is he a Good Templar? No.

1311. Peter Good stated in his evidence [reads Question 294]. Is that correct? Quite correct. We were all exceedingly jolly. I was myself.

1312. [Reads Question 295.] Is that correct? Quite correct.

1313. When did Captain Fisher hold his meeting at Port Cygnet? On a Friday; the Friday before the meeting at the Franklin.

1314. Where were you in the interval between Captain Fisher's meeting at Port Cygnet and the Franklin? I returned from Port Cygnet on the Saturday night and was in Hobart Town on Sunday and Monday. On Tuesday I went by coach, as already stated, with Captain Fisher and Mr. Langridge and Mr. Evans. I was in Hobart Town from the night I returned from Port Cygnet until the morning of the 15th June.

1315. Did you draw any cheques payable at the Huon? Yes.

1316. How many? For Mr. Watson for £2 5s.; for Mr. Mead, £2 16s., out of which I got £1 change, payable at Kingston for £1 1s. for man and horses, myself and expenses with Mr. Evans and Mr. Solomon's friends; at Port Cygnet for £1 2s. 6d.

1317. While you were at Mead's on the night of which you have spoken, were you at all jolly? Yes, but it was after I had returned from Watson's.

1318. Did you go to Mead's before the meeting? Yes, we had tea at Mead's.

1319. Mead says in his evidence [Question 650 read]. Is that true? That is not true; certainly not: and I think the whole of the people at the meeting, over 60, would tell you the same.

1320. *By Mr. Dobson.*—The cheques you paid, whose money was that? My own.

1321. Have you had a shilling from Captain Fisher on account of this election? On my oath, no.

1322. Did you spend that money with Captain Fisher's sanction or authority? Certainly not. Captain Fisher at the meeting warned the electors that he would not spend a sixpence or a pint of beer; and I said I would not be dictated to by Captain Fisher or anyone else.

1323. Had you any other object than what you have stated in seeing the electors in this district? I had; I intended if there were a dissolution to go down and contest the district for the House of Assembly.

1324. Were offers of money made to Captain Fisher when he first came out so that he might be put in free of expense? Yes.

1325. What did the Captain say? That he would not receive a shilling.

1326. Was Watson actively employed or canvassing for Solomon in the Election? He was an active supporter of Mr. Solomon.

1327. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—Have you talked about the two sovereigns mentioned in Mead's evidence to any one in Hobart Town? Yes: I stated that it was one of the most diabolical falsehoods that ever could have been uttered, and that it was manufactured evidence.

1328. Did you tell any one recently that what you showed to Good for sovereigns were merely the gilt embellishments of cotton reels? On my oath, no.

1329. Have you stated so to Mr. Balfe? On my oath, no. It is one of Mr. Balfe's embellishments.

1330. Were you with Mr. Balfe on the night of Father Beechinor's meeting? I was not at Father Beechinor's meeting.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1880.

CAPTAIN FISHER *sworn, and examined.*

1331. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Your name is William Fisher, you are the petitioner in these proceedings and were a candidate in the late election for the Huon? Yes.

1332. You heard Mrs. Slough give her evidence here? I did.

1333. Will you tell the Committee what took place from first to last between you and Mrs. Slough with reference to this election? On the Saturday nearest the 14th April I visited Kingston. It was one or two days after the 14th, I think. I called at Mrs. Slough's house in company with George Lucas. I had asked him to show me where the house was. I found Mr. and Mrs. Slough in the house. On my going into the house Mr. Slough told me that he had sent a message to say he would support me in the election as far as he could for the trouble I had taken in the District in times past; I had some claim on it, for many of the people were better off now than they were years ago, through my instrumentality. I said, a part of my family belonged to your Tower of Refuge Lodge for some time. Mrs. Slough observed, "It has never got on well since Mr. George Lucas left us." Very little else took place at the time. I wished them good night, as I was about starting for Hobart Town.

1334. Mrs. Slough has been asked (Question 682). Must Mrs. Slough have heard the conversation which took place between you and her husband? She could not help hearing, she was sitting near him in the room.

1335. When did you see her again? The first time I saw her was at the corner of Franklin Square at the corner of Elizabeth and Macquarie-streets. She spoke to me in the street. I did not know her. She asked me when this election was coming off. I asked her what she had to do with it. She told me that she was Mrs. Slough. I then remembered the circumstance of having met her at Brown's River. She told me that I had better come and see her old man, to look after him. I told her I did not think there was any necessity to look after him, for I believed him to be a truthful man. She said, "You had better, for Solomon's people are after him, and there is money about." I said I heard that some of them had promised £3 and £2 more if Solomon got in. She said, "You had better look after him, or you will have to stump up more than that, or else you won't get him." I told her I had not the least doubt about getting him; I believed he was truthful, and if he was to be got for money I did not want him. She said, "You had better come, at any rate, and see him." I said, "It is not worth my while to go to Brown's River at present; I may call some time when I am down there." "Oh!" she said, "I am not living at Brown's River now, I have been living in town for some time." I asked her where she lived; she stated in James's-street, Battery Point. I called at the house I think the same evening. It was some time before the election. I knocked at the door and was admitted: went through the front room to the next room at the back. On my entering Mr. Slough spoke to me. I asked him if it was true the other side had been looking him up. He said, "Yes, but it will make no difference, I shall not run away from my word." I wished him good night and left. Mrs. Slough followed me to the door; she asked me if I had seen Richard Millhouse: I told her that I did not want to see him, for I knew that he had signed Solomon's requisition. "Yes," she said, "but he is rather needy, and a little money would not hurt him." I said, "I can't help that, he won't get it from me." "Oh!" she said, "you will have to stand something handsome in the money line yet." I said, "We'll see all about that." That is all that took place at that interview. I saw her several times afterwards, after the election.

1336. Was anything at that interview said about a bonnet? Nothing whatever.

1337. Had you any other interview with her at the house? Never.

1338. At that interview at the house Mrs. Slough has sworn that you said to her, "If you will get Mr. Slough to give me his vote I will get you the best bonnet in Hobart Town." Is that true? It is not true; positively not true.

1339. Mrs. Seymour has stated that she was present at that interview and heard you say words to that effect to her mother. Who was in the room when you were talking to her mother? No one that I am aware of.

1340. Mrs. Seymour says she was there? If she was I must have had my eyes closed.

1341. You must have seen her if she had been there? Yes, I must have seen her.

1342. Did any person accompany you after you had seen old Slough to see you out of the front door, except Mrs. Slough? No one.

1343. Do you know who was in the back room? I saw Mr. Slough, a younger man than Mr. Slough, and, I think, a little lad. I do not remember seeing any woman in the house except Mrs. Slough.

1344. Now tell us what subsequent interview you had with Mrs. Slough? Before the election I met her on the wharf. She told me she had considerable trouble to keep Slough straight. I took very little notice of it for I believed Slough to be truthful. She said, "I am going to Brown's River on the day of the election, and if you or any of your party see me in Solomon's carriage take no notice of it; we are to be driven down."

1345. At any interview did anything pass about a bonnet? Yes.

1346. When was that? Shortly after the election Mrs. Slough came to my office; I was engaged with a gentleman from the neighbouring colonies, and I rose up and walked to the door and spoke to her. She handed me an envelope addressed to W. Fisher. I asked her what it was. She said it was an account for two guineas for her husband's services as scrutineer. She said, "You will have to give me the best bonnet in Hobart Town besides. Slough voted for you."

1347. Did you directly or indirectly promise to give her a bonnet? No; but I told her that I was not aware that I was indebted to Slough two guineas for scrutineering, for I had not a paid man in my service in the election. I told her that I would enquire about this two guineas, and if it was a just claim and my agent had incurred it, I would pay it.

1348. Did you ever pay that claim, or ever give Mrs. Slough a bonnet? No; the account is lying on my desk now. I met Mrs. Slough just about the time that this petition was entered into on the wharf, near the Old Market. She accosted me in the street and said, "You have never paid me that two guineas. I shall stick to you for a bonnet." I said, "I have not lost sight of your claim for the two guineas, and the first time I see the agent I will enquire about it." I said, "It is very likely I shall have to summon you to the investigation that is to come off." "What for?" she said. "To repeat what you have stated to me from time to time if need be." She said, "If you do you will get nothing out of me, for mum's the word." I said, "We shall see if we cannot find a way to make you speak."

1349. Do you remember going down to Franklin by the public conveyance part of the way, and holding a public meeting there before the election? I do. We stopped first at Watson's, and could not be taken in; we went on to the next hotel, kept by Mead. I saw Peter Good there, I think that same night,—about a week before the election.

1350. Do you remember saying to Mead, "We have done now all we can with Peter Good" (Question 637)? Positively no.

1351. Was P. Good a warm supporter of yours? Yes. I knew it before I left Hobart Town, on more than one occasion.

1352. Mead has sworn that he told you that Gray had given two sovereigns (or words to that effect) to Peter Good. Is it so? No; not in my hearing.

1353. Did Mead tell you anything of the kind whatever? Not a word of truth in it.

1354. What did Mead tell you about P. Good? Mead called me into a private room and told me that he had something of importance to communicate. He said, "You are being sold on the Franklin right and left; you won't get above seven or eight in this district." I said, "I can't help it, but I don't believe it." He mentioned that P. Good, Charles Coleman, Tom Norris, John Lloyd would sell me. With reference to the last I said, "I do not think any of them will, but especially Lloyd, who was one of the men who induced me to come out." His name is down on the auditor's account for £5. He came to my office in town before I had declared I would stand, and promised me his support, and induced me to announce myself as a candidate. I saw him afterwards at the Franklin at his house, when he directed me to some of the people who were living there. I was then in company with John Hay, sen. That was the reason I gave for expecting the support of these men. Mead told me, "I have another plan that will serve you." I asked him what it was. He said, "I have bet £20 against £40 that you will be returned." I told him I thought he was a very foolish man to do so; it was a risky piece of business. "Ah! but," he said, "Captain, I will make it all right." I asked in what way he could make it all right. "By investing £20 out of the £40 by giving four of the doubtful ones £5 a piece, which will secure the election." I told him he had better not do anything of the kind; it was a dishonest transaction from beginning to end.

1355. Mead has sworn that you clapped him on the back and said, "Your money is right, my boy?" I do not think it is very likely that I should do that.

1356. That same night you went to the meeting? I did.

1357. What took place at the meeting? While addressing the meeting I was interrupted several times by Cuthbert and Watson, and a little knot surrounding them, and I sat down to give Cuthbert and those that were interrupting the meeting an opportunity of saying what they had to say, and I would go on afterwards. Cuthbert rose up then to speak in the body of the hall. Cuthbert asked me if I had not stated at some of my public meetings, that if returned it should be by the people, not by the influence of money or beer. I replied that I had so stated several times; and that if one pint of beer or one shilling was to gain the election, I would not pay it, nor any one else for me. He said, "If you will not do it Gray will do it for you. He asked me to drink to-day at the *Victoria*." I told him I had nothing whatever to do with Mr. Gray, or Mr. Gray with me. If Mr. Gray had asked him to drink he had done it purely on his own account, and not in my interest. Mr. Cuthbert replied, "It is all moonshine," or something like that. I then, shortly after that, continued to address the meeting on public matters.

1358. Did you at several public meetings before the election publicly tell the electors that you would not be responsible for moneys spent beyond your legitimate expenses? At every public meeting I attended. I think there were four altogether.

1359. Do you know whether you lost any votes by making that statement? I believe I did. I know of one—Charles Oates. In conversation with me he told me that I would have no chance without spending money, and I asked him if he meant by that for the voters, and he said "Yes. For instance, you can't expect the people to come without getting something to drink." I replied, "No man should know better than you, Oates, that I would do nothing of the kind." He said, "You need not appear in it, I will spend the money for you." I said, "On those terms I court defeat."

1360. Had you an interview with Midson with reference to the letter of Miles, and what took place? Yes; I saw Midson at his house in passing through North West Bay. Midson and I were in course of conversation for some time. I knew from the first positively that Midson would not vote for anyone. I also knew that if he had voted he would have voted for me. In the course of conversation he told me that he had had a letter from George Miles. It had reference to money. I could not believe it. He said, "I will show you the letter." I said, "I shall be very much obliged if you will." Upon this he produced the letter. I read it; and if I had not seen Miles's name to it I would not have believed it. It said, "Dear sir, I have been told that it is not your intention to vote. I think you are mistaken. I think it is your duty to vote. You will oblige me by going to vote, and you will not be put to any expense. I will send (or give) you £2. Yours truly, George Miles." That is the purport of the letter according to my firm conviction. I asked him to give me the letter that I might communicate with Miles in reference to it. I destroyed it myself.

1361. Was there anything in that letter, as far as you remember, about Midson being driven over? No.

1362. Did you see Miles afterwards? Not till after the election. But before leaving Midson I told him that Miles had done something that he was not warranted in doing; that if he paid his expenses I would not pay it. The first opportunity I had I sent a telegram to Miles with reference to this. I repudiated his action in the matter; he had no authority whatever to spend money from me.

1363. Did you ever promise any money to Wright? Never one sixpence. I sent a message by a friend to say that if he was summoned here I would pay his expenses. I did not see or know Wright at that time. I have seen him several times since.

1364. You know Vince? I do.

1365. Did he promise you to give you his vote? He did.

1366. Under any particular circumstances? He came to my office with a person named Nolan, who works as a carter on the Huon Road. He was talking to me in my office for perhaps half an hour. Before he left he told me he knew I was likely to be a candidate. I replied that I had decided to test the election. He told me that he would vote for me, and come down to the *Picnic* and give me a little help if he could on the day of the election.

1367. Did he ask you for any payment? No; I told him that I would not spend any money.

1368. Mr. Edwards has told us that he expected Vince to take over a voter named Coombes to the poll. What was Coombes' condition for several days before the election? I saw Coombes within a month of the election. He was not well. He was very ill just before the election. He was not in a condition to leave the house and go and vote. I saw him lying on the sofa with his legs up. I called on the day of the election going down. I saw him from 8 to 10 days before that, and he told me that he would come to the poll—there was no necessity to send for him; he would go in his own trap, or on his own horse, I am not sure which. He appeared to be very much prostrated on the day of the election. He told me when I saw him the time before, when I asked him whether I should send for him, "No, I always go on my own horse (or in my own trap). I will be sure and be early at the poll."

1369. What was the date of your seeing Vince? I could not fix the date; it was perhaps a month or five weeks before the election.

1370. You heard Mr. John Hay say that he received £1 from you and gave it to Thomson; was that money a loan from you to Hay? Yes; it has been paid back since.

1371. Can you say what part Evans took for Mr. Solomon in the late election? My attention was particularly directed to Mr. Evans, and I know that he missed no opportunity of influencing voters as against me and in favour of Mr. Solomon. I have seen him when I was speaking to a voter dodge and waylay them until I was done, and then speak to them afterwards. Whenever I have had an opportunity of seeing him I have seen him all through the contest doing all he could for the interest of Mr. Solomon.

1372. Mr. Edwards has told us that Young got two guineas for acting for Mr. Solomon. Had Young promised to vote for you, and under what circumstances? He had. I saw a letter from him to a friend—a business letter—a paragraph in which stated that he would support Mr. Fisher, and would do all he could for him.

1373. Did you see him afterwards at Barnes's Bay? I did. I went to his wharf, and he was standing on the wharf. Mr. Hay was with me. We got a very cool reception. I said, "You have been supporting me in this contest I believe." He said, "I have, but I am employed now by the other side." I said, "Employed to do what?" "As a scrutineer." "How many voters are there here," I said? "Four." "How many will vote do you think?" "Three, perhaps the four." "Who is the scrutineer besides you," I asked? "Mr. Pybus," he said. "You are both employed?" He said, "Yes." "To see that you vote yourselves, and perhaps two others?" "For all I know," he said; "I don't understand much about it." I said, "Why do you not give the thing its proper name? Why call it scrutineer? Why do you not say you are bought?" He said, "That is not your business," and professed to get very angry. I wished him of his position, said good night, and steamed away to Hobart Town.

1374. Had Blackwood promised to vote for you? Not to me, individually; he sent a message twice through my bookkeeper, promising to support me. He said that I was identified with the river people, and that it was their duty to support me. That was on the first occasion, before I had consented to stand. That was one of the inducements to me to stand.

1375. Charles Oates has stated, (Questions 997 and 998). Are the answers true? I did tell him that I would not spend any money. I have already referred to the conversation.

1376. With reference to W. R. Lucas's evidence, Lucas gave the Committee to understand that he was told that three electors, Dandridge, Bridge, and Flight, received £10 each for their votes at Dr. Crowther's and Mr. Foster's election. Do you know whether Dandridge and Flight were on the rolls at that time? I believe they were not; neither Dandridge nor Flight. I only know from hearsay.

1377. Had you in the course of your election a paid agent, scrutineer, or canvasser? No. I paid nothing, either directly or indirectly. The only claim I had was Slough's, for scrutineering.

1378. Have you paid George Lucas anything? No; I have paid him nothing up to the present time, but I suppose somebody will have to pay his expenses in coming here to give evidence.

1379. Did you pay any money to any voter for travelling expenses? No; not a penny. I have never been asked for it, except in one instance, that is Slough's.

1380. Did you pay money to any person on account of travelling expenses? My steamer broke down on one occasion, and I had to pay for a boat to take off Mr. Hay and some others. I paid it—£3—to Mr. William Davis, of Port Esperance, I suppose a month or six weeks after the election, and after my accounts were made up.

1381. What were your expenses? I made up my accounts with the agent, and when I returned thanks to the electors my expenses were some few shillings within £50. Since that I have paid some £3 or £4. The whole was a pound or two under £60. Printing and publishing was a large item, travelling expenses, telegrams, postage stamps, horse, cab, and coach hire. Next to the printing the coach, cab, and horse hire was the heaviest.

1382. Can you tell me how many votes you were promised at the election? Over 70. I obtained 51; 17 at Hobart Town; 15 at Franklin; Victoria, 3; Kingston, 10; Barnes's Bay, 1; Port Cygnet, 2; Three Hut Point, 3.

1383. How many voters polled at those places? Franklin, 29; Victoria, 17; Hobart Town, 22; Kingston, 19; Barnes's Bay, 4; Port Cygnet, 10; Three Hut Point, 4.

1384. Out of the whole constituency, can you tell me the whole available number of voters? I think 105.

1385. Are you able to say how many paid men there were of Mr. Solomon's in the electorate? I believe there were 20.

1386. Did Mr. Gray leave the morning after the meeting at the Franklin? He did, at 9 or 10 o'clock, after breakfast.

1387. Have you anything to say with reference to William Lucas' statement (Question 929)? Yes, I asked W. Lucas what he would charge to provide those people with food, and he said, "£5." I said I thought it was reasonable and fair. He said to me, "Don't tell the other side about this, or let anyone know what you are paying me. It is a very small sum. I expect to get a much larger one from the other side, for up to this time I have been treated very liberally." I said "It is not my business what you get from them. I don't care if you get £50."

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1880.

CAPTAIN FISHER'S *Examination continued.*

1388. *By Mr. McIntyre.*—When and where did you hold your first public meeting during the last election? I think it was at Kingston; I should think about three weeks before the election.

1389. Did Mr. Gray leave town with you then when you went to that meeting? He was at the meeting with me. I believe he did go down with me in the carriage.

1390. Did you publicly state at that meeting that you would not be responsible for his acts? I do not remember.

1391. How many public meetings did you hold after that one at Kingston? I think three.

1392. Was Gray present at each one of those? I think he was.

1393. After your meeting at Port Cygnet did Mr. Gray return with you to town? He did. He left Port Cygnet in the morning, baited at the *Picnic*, and came on to town.

1394. And did you and Gray start away from town again by coach on the morning of the 15th June? Mr. Gray was in the coach with me as far as Victoria. We stopped there an hour to bait.

1395. Who stopped at Victoria? I and a large number of persons, among whom I remember Mr. Evans, Rev. Gleeson, and others. It was a sale day.

1396. Did you go on to the Franklin? I did, in the evening.

1397. How; in what way? In a chaise cart.

1398. Did Mr. Gray accompany you? Mr. Gray, among others, did accompany me.

1399. You and Gray put up together at Mead's? We called at Watson's and he could not take us in;

he had promised to provide a bed for Mr. Gray, but we passed on to Mead's and stayed there, with the others who were in the cart, except the man who drove it, that night.

1400. And Gray attended your meeting that night? He did.

1401. Has your election agent rendered his account to the election auditor yet? He has not.

1402. Why not? It is more than three months since the election? He did not think it necessary for a defeated candidate to do so.

1403. Do you say then that Mrs. Slough in giving her evidence here swore falsely? I do, most positively.

1404. And Mrs. Seymour? Positively.

1405. And William Mead? [Reads Question 336. "We have done now all we can with Peter Good."] Is that true or false? False. There is a gentleman in town, Mr. John Hay, who heard all the conversation.

1406. [Reads Questions 646 and 647.] With regard to the sovereigns passing into Mead's hands, is that correct? A most unmitigated falsehood.

1407. And do you say that John Midson has sworn falsely with regard to the contents of Miles' letter? As to the offer to drive Midson over to the polling-place and back? There was no such statement to my knowledge in the letter. I am sure there was not. I read it.

1408. And George Maguire is incorrect too as to that statement? [Reads Question 1080.] That was not in the letter.

1409. Question 1093. [Reads it.] Do you state that statement is incorrect? It must have been so.

1410. Questions 784 and 785. [Reads them.] Do you say that is incorrect? I do.

Captain Fisher states that he had examined the Electoral Roll for 1868, and had found that the names of Dandridge and Flight were not thereon, Bridges' name only being on.

[The names of Joseph Keene and William Smith are found to be on the Roll, which is produced by the Clerk of the Council.]

MR. R. J. EDWARDS *recalled, sworn, and examined.*

1411. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Where were you on Saturday, 12th June last? At Port Cygnet. Mr. Solomon held a public meeting in the evening previous, and we returned on the Sunday. Mr. Solomon refused to travel on the Saturday.

1412. When did you leave town again? On Tuesday morning, the 15th.

1413. Where were you on Saturday, the 19th June, the Saturday preceding the election? At the Franklin; I did not return again till the 25th, two days after the election.

1414. Can you state where you were on Saturday, the 5th June last? I was at home very busily engaged the whole of the morning in clerical work that was necessary to be done, as I was about to start on the tour with Mr. Solomon on Monday morning. I took the shop duties on the afternoon of Saturday, and never was a yard from my house the whole day.

1415. Why were you so anxious to get all this work done on that Saturday? Because I had purposed not to return to town again until after the election, and I left my son with directions for the printing of circulars and other matters.

1416. You have heard Hollinsdale's statement (Question 1253) of an alleged interview at his shop between yourself and Robert Vince? Is that true or false? False: I never saw Vince in his shop or spoke to Hollinsdale about him.

1417. Did you speak to Hollinsdale at all about the election? The only conversation I ever remember having with Hollinsdale took place before I had seen Mr. Solomon about his election. On that occasion as I was passing Hollinsdale's shop he stopped me and said, "Is it true that that fellow Solomon is coming out for the Huon?" I said, "I don't know, three or four have been mentioned, but I don't know about the truth of it." He replied, "If Solomon does come out I will give him a lift. If it had not been for him, when foreman of the jury, I should have got a verdict against Sir Francis Smith." In my first interview with Mr. Solomon, regarding the election, I mentioned to him this conversation.

1418. *By Mr. Dobson.*—How did you get to the Franklin on Saturday, the 19th June? I was driven over by Lucas's cart on the Wednesday morning, the 16th, and remained in the Huon till the 25th.

1419. What Lucas was that? Lucas of the *Picnic*.

1420. You say you never saw Vince in Hollinsdale's shop? Did you see him anywhere else in Hobart Town just previous to the election? I did not. I never saw him or Mrs. Vince till the 7th June, just previous to the election.

1421. When Mr. Hollinsdale was examined, did you instruct your Counsel as to what he had said about his law case? I could not do that, for I did not know he was coming here.

1422. When he was here did you not ask your Counsel to examine him as to the alleged conversation about giving Solomon a lift? I do not recollect having done so.

WILLIAM HINCHMORE *called in, sworn, and examined.*

1423. *By Mr. M'Intyre.*—Your name is William Hinchmore, and you are a servant at Mr. Mead's on the Franklin? Yes.

1424. How long have you lived on the Franklin? I was born on the Franklin.

1425. Do you remember Captain Fisher holding a meeting at the Franklin? Yes.

1426. Do you know when? I could not tell the month, but I think it was on a Tuesday.

1427. Do you remember being sent anywhere by Mr. Mead that Tuesday evening? Yes.

1428. Where? He sent me in search of Peter Good. I went and could not find him. He told me to tell him that Mr. Gray wanted him. I went up the road and could not find him.

1429. On your return did you see Mr. Gray? After about 10 minutes I saw him. I told Mr. Mead that I could not find him.

1430. What did Gray say when you saw him? He asked me was I the chap that went for Good? He asked me to go again, and told me I must find him if I could at all.

1431. Did you go again in search of Good? Yes; I found him. When I met him on the road I said, "Is that you, Peter?" It was dark. He says, "Yes; that's me." I said, "You are wanted down at Mr. Mead's." He says, "Yes, I know who wants me." I says, "It's a man they call Jimmy Gray." He says, "Yes; he wants my vote, but he won't get it without I get five notes." He says, "Charley Coleman is going to get five notes, and I must get the same."

1432. Did you meet Mr. Gray while you were with Good? I met him just before I reached Mr. Mead's.

1433. Did you leave Gray and Good together? Yes; I left them going up towards the Mechanics.

1434. Did you see Good at Mead's the next morning? Yes.

1435. At what time? It was very early in the morning when I first saw him.

1436. Did you see Gray and Good together? Yes. This was after I first saw him.

1437. Where were you when you first saw Gray and Good together? I was going through the passage. I saw Peter Good come out of the front parlour, and Mr. Gray following him, and they met Mr. Mead in the passage. I went through to the back and got some wood, and was just going to make the fire in the back parlour, and I heard Mr. Gray say, "I have bought Peter; he has collared the 2 sovs." I could not see whom he said it to. Then Mr. Gray, Mr. Good, and Mr. Mead went into the bar. I saw Mr. Mead take a bottle down off the shelf, and I could not say whether they had any drink out of it because I did not stop to look, but walked out again.

1438. Did you see Good at Mead's after Gray left? Yes.

1439. Did you mention what you heard to any one that morning? When Mr. Mead came to town, and I heard that it was on the election he was up, I told Mrs. Mead what I heard, and what I have told you.

1440. *By Mr. Dobson.*—In what capacity are you employed at Mead's? As general servant.

1441. Did Mr. Mead tell you to come up to town? He told me I had to come up.

1442. He first spoke to you about coming up to town? He asked me if I had not told the Misses I had heard the conversation between Good and Gray, and I said yes.

1443. You had mentioned it to Mead before? Not to Mead, but to Mrs. Mead.

1444. You told no one else but Mrs. Mead? No; not until Mr. Mead asked me whether I heard the conversation that passed that morning, and I said yes.

1445. On what date, or time, did you tell Mrs. Mead? When Mr. Mead was in town. I could not tell what date it was.

1446. You knew that Mead was coming up to give evidence? I did not, until after.

1447. If you talked to the mistress about these things, will you swear that you did not know before Mead came up what Mr. Mead came to town for? I did not.

1448. How did you first know what business took Mead to town? He sent a message to Mrs. Mead, and told her he could not be home for a few days. He said he would have to appear on this case, and that would delay him a bit.

1449. That was the first you had heard that there was a case? Yes; I worked over the river, clearing ground, and Mrs. Mead kept me at home after she got this message from Mr. Mead, saying she could not do without me because there was only her and the daughter there.

1450. What was the message? He said he had to appear in town on the election trial. I cannot remember the exact words, but I know that was what it meant.

1451. And that was the first you heard of this case? Yes.

1452. Do you swear that you did not know that this case was going on in town, and was mentioned in the newspapers, and was talked about in the district before Mead sent that message to his wife? I won't swear that it was not mentioned in the newspapers, but I never heard of it.

1453. You know Peter Good? Yes.

1454. You know Charles Coleman? Yes.

1455. Did you never hear that those two had been up here to give their evidence in this case? Not until Mr. Mead came to town.

1456. Are you intimate with Charles Coleman? I used to work with him, but not lately. We might often pass and never speak.

1457. Did the election cause some excitement down at the Huon? The election did not trouble me. I never bothered my head about it. I cannot read the newspapers. I cannot read at all.

1458. Did you hear any talk about bribery, or about money being given to people during the election time? No, I did not; if I heard it I never took notice of it.

1459. Did Mr. Mead speak to you about your evidence, here when he got back? He told me I should have to go to town and state my own evidence as to what I had seen and heard; whatever I was asked, to tell the truth.

1460. Did Mead tell you what he had said here? No; I do not know what he did say.

1461. Did he not talk to you about what he had done here? Not a word? No.

1462. Has Mr. Edwards seen you about your evidence before you came here? I do not know him.

1463. Has any one in town spoken to you about your evidence? There was a man in town (indicating Mr. Edwards) asked me what I knew about the case, and I told him what I did know.

1464. *By Mr. Dodery.*—What time was it that the conversation took place, when you were making the fire? As near as I can tell it was about 9 o'clock in the morning.

1465. Did you see Captain Fisher there that morning? I could not say. He was there that morning, but I would not be sure he was there then.

1466. Do you not know that Mr. Gray was with Captain Fisher from half-past 8 that morning until they breakfasted, and up to half-past 9? He could not have been with him all the time because I saw Mr. Gray in the bar. Mr. Gray came and got my mate to get a pair of ducks for him and put them in the coach.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1880.

WILLIAM HINCHMORE *called in, sworn, and examined.*

1467. *By Mr. Dobson.*—Did you receive a sentence of three months' imprisonment [Dr. Crowther objects to the question] for larceny? I did.

1468. In 1878 you received a sentence of twelve months for assault and robbery? I did.

1469. Was the sentence for an assault committed at the Franklin? Yes.

1470. And in the beginning of this year you were committed for trial at Franklin for an assault with intent to commit rape? Yes; but I was not guilty. The Attorney-General did not file a bill against me.

1471. Did you not come to town with Mead; and are you not staying at his place? Yes.

1472. *By Mr. Dodery.*—How long have you been in Mr. Mead's employ? About two years; but I was committed for the attempt at rape during that time.

1473. Were you in Mr. Mead's employ when you received the twelve months sentence? No; I went to him afterwards.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 46, line 8 of question 1333, for "I said" read "and."

Page 47, line 12 of question 1354, for "piece of" read "bad."

APPENDIX.

A.

STATEMENT of Bills, Charges, or Claims upon Joseph Solomon, Esquire, as a Member of the Legislative Council of Tasmania for the Electoral District of Huon, sent in to the Election Auditor for payment, within one month from the day of the Declaration of the said Election.

	£	s.	d.
Admitted.—D. W. Lucas, use of room one week for Committee Room, refreshment to Scrutineers on polling day, and Canvassers during contest.....	10	0	0
Admitted.—R. W. Lucas, use of room one week for Committee Room, refreshment to Candidate, Agent, and Canvassers, and Scrutineers on polling day.....	15	0	0
Admitted.—Henry Watson, use of room one week for Committee Room, refreshment to Agent, Canvassers, and Scrutineers on polling day.....	15	0	0
Admitted.—Thomas Sexton, use of room one week for Committee Room, refreshment to Agent, Canvassers, and Scrutineers on polling day.....	10	0	0
Admitted.—Services as Canvassers and Scrutineers.—R. Williamson, £5; Chas. Oates, £5; James Lucas, £5; Samuel Page, £5; William Cuthbert, £5; Jas. Thomas, £5; W. Lloyd, £5; F. Harrison, £3; W. Walshe, £5; F. Ward, £3; R. Blackwood, £5; Samuel Young, £3; J. Gillham, £2 5s.	56	5	0
Admitted.—Pierce Baker, Canvassing and hire of cabs	5	0	0
Admitted.—John Howard, Canvassing and hire of cab	3	0	0
	£114	5	0
Personal.....	46	10	0
	£160	15	0

E. A. WALPOLE, Esq., Election Auditor for Electoral District of Huon.

B.

[Copy of Address.]

To JOSEPH SOLOMON, Esq., J.P., Temple House, Hobart Town.

SIR, We, the undersigned Electors of the Electoral District of Huon, hearing that it is currently reported that our present Member, whose time in the Council will shortly expire, does not intend to seek re-election, and as we know you possess a large stake in the Colony, we are desirous of being informed of your political views, in order that we may judge of the desirability of inviting you to become a Candidate when the said vacancy occurs.

C.

HUON ELECTION.

23rd June, 1880.

R. J. EDWARDS, Agent, in Account with Mr. Solomon's Election Expenses.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
June 7. To cash	80	0	0				By payments to scrutineers, canvassers, and others, sanctioned by Election Auditor.....	114	5	0			
29. Cheque on Bank	131	7	6				By payments made in ready money, printing, personal expenses, sanctioned by Election Auditor	46	10	0			
Aug. 9. Cash settling up	33	7	6								160	15	0
				244	15	0	By Agent's expenses during the preliminary canvass with address.....	...			34	0	0
							By Agent's fee			50	0	0
				£244	15	0					£244	15	0

N.B.—The cheques (19 in number) amounting to £114 5s. do not appear in this statement as the claims were paid out of cheque £131 7s. 6d. The cheques referred to were merely passed through the Bank by Mr. Solomon.

D.

Franklin, August 18, 1880.

SIR, HAVING received your statements as Electioneering Agent for J. Solomon, Esq., of the costs and expenses attending his late election, to which I find no objection, I am prepared to fulfil my duty as Returning Officer by paying the several claims in the manner enjoined by the Electoral Act (*vide* Sections 104 and 109), after which the Abstract of Accounts will be published in a newspaper, agreeably to Section 113.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. A. WALPOLE, *Returning Officer, Huon.**Mr. R. J. EDWARDS, Election Agent for J. SOLOMON, Esq.*