

(No. 153.)



1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HANSARD:

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

Brought up by Mr. Gray, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed,
November 17, 1885.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed, on the 20th August, 1885, to report upon
the best means of obtaining a reliable Record of the Proceedings of this House.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. TREASURER.
MR. GRAY.
MR. NORTON-SMITH.
MR. ARCHER.

MR. BIRD.
MR. GIBSON.
MR. W. T. H. BROWN (*Mover*).

DAYS OF MEETING.

Thursday, 3rd September; Tuesday, 8th September; Friday, 18th September; Friday, 25th September;
Friday, 13th November.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Mr. T. C. Just. Mr. G. E. Langridge. Mr. C. E. Davies.

MINUTES.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1885.

The Committee met at 12 noon.

Present—Mr. Bird, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gray.

In the absence of the Mover, Mr. Brown, Mr. Bird was voted to the Chair.

The following Papers were laid upon the Table:—

(1) Report of the House of Assembly Select Committee on Parliamentary Reporting.—H.A. Paper 112, Session 1876.

(2) Correspondence with Australian Colonies as to their system of Parliamentary Reporting.—Paper 57, Session IV., 1877.

Resolved, That the Hon. the Chief Secretary be requested to obtain from the Australian Colonies the latest information relative to their systems of Parliamentary Reporting.

Resolved, That Mr. T. C. Just be summoned to give evidence before the Committee on Tuesday, the 8th instant, at 3.30 P.M.

The Committee adjourned till Tuesday, the 8th instant, at 3.30 P.M.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1885.

The Committee met at 3.30 P.M.

Present—Mr. Gray, Mr. Norton-Smith, Mr. Bird (Chairman).

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. T. C. Just was called in and examined.

Mr. Just withdrew.

Ordered, That Mr. Langridge be summoned to give evidence before the Committee on Friday, the 11th instant, at 11 A.M.

The Committee adjourned till Friday, the 11th instant, at 11 A.M.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1885.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—The Treasurer, Mr. Bird, Mr. Gray, Mr. Smith, Mr. W. T. H. Brown (Chairman).

Mr. George Edwyn Langridge was called in and examined.

Mr. Langridge withdrew.

It was decided to call Mr. C. E. Davies, and also to forward certain questions to the Proprietors of the *Launceston Examiner* and *Daily Telegraph*, asking them to reply before the following Friday.

The Committee adjourned at 1 P.M. till Friday, the 25th instant, at 11 A.M.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1885.

The Committee met at 2:30 P.M.

Present—Mr. W. T. H. Brown, Mr. Bird, Mr. Gray, Mr. Norton-Smith.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman read letters on the subject of Parliamentary Reporting from Messrs. Aikenhead & Button, of the *Launceston Examiner*; Mr. James Brickhill, *Daily Telegraph*, Launceston; and Mr. H. H. Gill, of the *Tasmanian News*, Hobart. (*Vide Appendix.*)

The replies to the Circular addressed to the Australian Governments relative to their systems of Parliamentary Reporting were laid on the Table. (*Vide Appendix.*)

Mr. C. E. Davies, Proprietor of the *Mercury*, Hobart, was called in and examined.

Mr. Davies withdrew.

The Committee adjourned until a date to be hereafter determined.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1885.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Mr. Gray, Mr. Bird, Mr. Guesdon, Mr. Norton-Smith.

In the absence of Mr. W. T. H. Brown, Mr. Gray was voted to the Chair.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Draft Report was submitted, read, and adopted.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

REPORT.

THE Select Committee appointed in the year 1876, House of Assembly Paper 112, to consider the necessity of having the proceedings of Parliament reported so as to be a reliable record, recommend that there should be some proper and efficient means of having such a record; but the Committee, not having before them sufficient information to warrant them in making any definite proposals as to the mode in which this should be done, the Hon. the Chief Secretary was requested to communicate with the authorities in the Colonies of Australia and New Zealand. Paper No. 57, Session 4, 1877, containing correspondence with the Australian Colonies as to their system of reporting, was laid upon the Table of the House.

Your Committee have had five sittings, and have examined several witnesses, who afforded valuable information.

Letters on the same subject from newspaper proprietors in Tasmania were placed before your Committee, also further correspondence with the neighbouring Colonies.

Your Committee deem it an imperative necessity to have the proceedings of Parliament reported so as to be a reliable record, the advantages of which would be that it would preserve in an authentic form the Rulings of the President and Speaker, which form the Law of Parliament and control its proceedings; it would record the reasons upon which legislation is proposed and adopted, and hence would form the groundwork of the Constitutional History of the Colony; it would facilitate the business of Parliament, and be calculated to preserve its independence, and afford to

individual Members the means, which they do not now possess, of vindicating their public conduct before the country and their constituents (*vide* Memorandum furnished to the Chief Secretary of New South Wales by Principal Shorthand Writer of Hansard).

Your Committee find that efficient means of having the proceedings of Parliament reported, so as to be a reliable record, can be obtained at a cost of about £1500 a year, on lines similar to that set forth in agreement entered into between the Government of South Australia and the newspaper proprietors of Adelaide (*vide* draft agreement). To this amount it would be necessary to add the salary of a Parliamentary Shorthand Writer to supervise such reports, and who would be held responsible for their accuracy.

This Officer would be also available for such other work during the recess as the Government might deem it desirable to engage him upon—Supreme Court reporting, &c.

Your Committee urge upon your Honorable House to consider an Address to be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to recommend the appropriation of a sum not exceeding Two thousand Pounds to carry out the objects contemplated by this Report, for the year 1886.

JAMES GRAY, *Chairman*.

Committee Room, 13th November, 1885.

EVIDENCE.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1885.

MR. T. C. JUST *examined*.

1. *By the Chairman*.—Your name? Thomas Cook Just.
2. What is your present position? I am Immigration Agent, and Staff Officer of the Defence Force.
3. You have given some attention to the question of providing a suitable Hansard or Record of the Proceedings of the Legislature of Tasmania? Yes. I have been a Journalist for over 25 years, and the Leader of a Hansard Staff.
4. Where were you in connection with a Hansard Staff? In South Australia, when the Hansard was done by contract by one of the newspapers, the *Advertiser*.
5. When was that? From 1859 to 1862.
6. Were the reports furnished pretty fully in that way? Yes: we reported, on the average, at the rate of a column per hour. Of course the space was governed by the importance of the debate. Generally the debates were taken at the rate of a column per hour of the *Advertiser*. I have prepared a small memorandum of the draft conditions I should propose for a contract for printing a Hansard, which runs as follows:—
 1. To report the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament with a competent staff of Reporters, to the extent of ten columns (Brevier type) for each sitting day, estimating the Session to last thirteen weeks.
 2. To furnish proofs of the debate to each speaker within forty-eight hours after the adjournment of the Houses, for revision and correction.
 3. To make any reasonable corrections in the metal, provided the corrected proofs are returned to the contractor within forty-eight hours after their delivery to the speakers.
 4. To publish the debates weekly for sale, at a price not to exceed 1s. per copy per week,—the Hansard being permitted to pass free by post.
 5. To furnish the Government, within three months of the close of every Session, with one hundred and fifty copies of the debates, carefully indexed and bound in such a manner as may be agreed.
 6. Should the importance of any debate render it necessary to exceed the limit of ten columns per sitting day, or should the Parliament sit for longer than thirteen weeks, the contractor to be paid at the rate of £3 per column for every additional column so reported and published.
 7. The contract to be for five years, and the contractor to give reasonable security for its due performance.
 8. Government to make provision for the accommodation of the Hansard Staff in both Houses, such provision to include a private office for the transcription of notes by the reporters.
7. *By Mr. Smith*.—Were the speeches taken down in full in the Hansard you were connected with? No, only in cases when the Minister or the leading men of the Legislature spoke, and then only on special occasions.

8. But Members had no power to correct their speeches in the morning? Oh, yes. Our form of proceeding was that every member had a slip containing his speech placed, at the next sitting of the House, on his table, and he was allowed so many hours to correct it; so that unless the gentleman checked his speech during the time allowed him for that purpose he could not reasonably object to any error appearing in the Hansard.

9. This Hansard was a reprint of the daily paper? Yes, with the corrections made by speakers.

10. Did that arrangement prove generally satisfactory to the members? Yes, I presume so, as the same system is used now.

11. And what would the cost be? Our contract was £1000 per annum, with 300 copies, bound and indexed, of the book at the end of the session. I understand that, owing to competition and varying circumstances, there have been several changes as to cost, but I think from what I have heard the present cost is about from £1000 to £2000 a year.

12. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think that in the case of an increased amount of reporting, or a longer session, or in the case of labour becoming dearer, it would be practicable to provide a Hansard here for that sum? I think you would have no difficulty here in getting a first-class Hansard for the sum of £1500. I believe a private contractor could be found to do it for that amount.

13. Can you offer any suggestions on the subject? [Mr. Just produced his written suggestions again, which are already given above.]

14. Do you think it would be better to have the Hansard published separately and apart from a newspaper? Yes, I think it would be better to have an independent contractor to do the work, but you could get it done much cheaper at an established newspaper office.

15. *By Mr. Smith.*—Would £1500 cover the whole cost of the Hansard? Yes.

16. *By the Chairman.*—You mention £3 per column for extra work,—would it not be better to pay *pro rata*? You will find the charge of £3 per column is little more than *pro rata*. In the other colonies it is comparatively easy to get reporters; here, they must be brought from the other colonies under specified engagements, and if the session lasted much over the specified time the contractor would have to make special and, perhaps, expensive arrangements,—therefore the sum is fixed to cover that.

17. *By Mr. Gray.*—Under your proposal would the speeches appear in the newspaper on the following day? Unless you agree with a newspaper, certainly not.

MR. GEORGE EDWYN LANGRIDGE *examined.*

18. *By the Chairman.*—What is your position? Leader of the Parliamentary Staff of the *Mercury*.

19. Have you had experience in the working of Hansard? Yes; I was three years on the Queensland Hansard, and here I have had similar work in connection with the *Mercury* staff.

20. When were you on the Queensland Hansard? From August, 1881, till 1884.

21. What is the mode of working the Queensland Hansard? It is purely a Government staff, independent of newspapers altogether, not only regarding the reporting, but also the printing and reading. It is issued from the Government Printing Office on the following morning. The Government employ special staffs of reporters, printers, and readers, the Hansard being also set up on the Government machines. It is then issued by the Government Printer to any newspaper that chooses to order it. The newspapers that take it then enclose it in each copy of the paper and thus issue it.

22. It is not reprinted by the newspapers? No, it is simply issued in Hansard form as if it were a supplement.

23. Do you know what is the cost of the Queensland Hansard? I cannot say for certain. I know the salaries of the reporters would come to about £3500 per year. The chief of the staff receives £600, the next £550, the third £450, and five others £300 each; there are also cadets, who are taught shorthand by the Government so that they may obtain a supply of shorthand writers.

24. What is the length of the Queensland sessions? About five months; the expenses, I think, would not be much less than £20,000 a year. The staff, however, are always available for Royal Commissions, enquiries, &c. during the recess.

25. *By Mr. Bird.*—Does the Hansard ever exceed in size the copy produced? Yes, I have known it to be 16 pages.

26. *By the Chairman.*—Is only the gist of the speeches given? All second-reading speeches are reported in the first person and verbatim. The Committee work is “pulled together,” but nothing of importance is left out. All the second-reading speeches are absolutely given in full.

27. Can you recommend any way to obtain a Hansard in Tasmania? The cheapest way to work it would be by making an application to the *Mercury*. I am now speaking independently, giving my own opinion absolutely. That seems to me to be the only real solution of the difficulty. There are four newspapers in the Island. You could not get it done outside a newspaper office, because you could not get a circulation. It must be a southern newspaper that does it, and that narrows it down to two. The *Mercury* already has a staff of shorthand writers, which the *Tasmanian News* has not. The *Mercury* has now five good shorthand writers on their staff, and my idea is that they could add two or three more, and that they would then have a staff able to do all the work necessary. With regard to the printing, I do not know anything, but you could very soon make arrangements with Mr. Davies, and then the work that you required could speedily be done by issuing a supplement.

28. As a regular thing you now give about eight columns? You cannot measure it that way. We can make about two columns an hour.

29. If tenders were called, would not that be the best plan?—would not the *Mercury* tender? No, I think the *Mercury* would not tender. I think they take this ground: Parliament can see now what is being done in the way of reporting Parliament in the *Mercury*. I do not think the *Mercury* would enter into competition with a paper that has no staff, and does not pretend to report the speeches at all. I am now speaking entirely independent of Mr. Davies.

30. *By Mr. Gray.*—Suppose we invited tenders under specific terms of agreement, would not that enable the House to see on what terms 10 columns per day could be furnished? Yes, certainly, if you got replies. If a private man got the tender, it would be very difficult for him to obtain a staff of shorthand writers.

31. Suppose we had a contract with a newspaper, would you recommend that a permanent paid reporter should be employed by the Government? You would have to employ a man who would be independent of the newspaper. He would be absolutely prevented from having anything to do with the Members excepting through the Speaker and the President of the Council, and he would be the medium of communication between them and the contractor.

32. Would not the speeches be submitted to Members for alteration? You are assuming that there would be a daily Hansard, which would afterwards be published in book form. No corrections could be made prior to the daily issue, but proofs of speeches would be issued to Members, and the corrections appear in the book form.

33. *By the Chairman.*—But suppose a Member were incorrectly reported, how would the correction be made? The member incorrectly reported would draw attention to the error next day in the House, and his correction would then be reported like any other speech.

34. *By Mr. Gray.*—Would it be possible to get a Hansard printed here of ten columns of reliable record, for £1500 a year? I do not think so. In South Australia, to which I presume you are referring, they do it at a loss. The two local papers both report Parliament in full, and they make it a "cut-throat" business, and actually do it for less than it costs them. They both have to keep up large staffs. Here you have no such competition, and if any newspaper took it the proprietors would want to make a reasonable profit.

35. Is there not competition in Launceston by papers that could do it? I cannot say.

36. *By Mr. Bird.*—Does the publication of the Parliamentary Records in South Australian newspapers increase their circulation very much? I do not know.

37. Would it not increase the circulation of the *Mercury* if they had the Hansard contract? I do not think so. The circulation of the *Mercury* alters very little; the population here is so fixed that there is very little room for growth of circulation.

38. *By Mr. Gray.*—What we want is a reliable record of our proceedings—how can we best obtain that? If you can sink the idea of favouritism, I think an arrangement could be made with Mr. Davies for the work on a fuller scale than is now given.

39. If a private person agreed to do it for £1500 a year, would the amount be too much? I do not think he would make much out of it, and I do not think you would either, in the way of satisfaction.

40. Suppose a contract were made with a newspaper for the publication of a reliable record of our proceedings, would you recommend that a competent shorthand reporter should be employed, independent of the newspaper, to see that the reports were properly corrected? There would want to be a Director. He would be in constant communication with the President, the Speaker, and the contracting printer. He would lead the staff, being employed by the Government, and would be available for Royal Commissions, and to educate the cadets in shorthand if necessary. He would be expected to report to the President and Speaker, say weekly, that the work was being satisfactorily carried out.

41. What would be the salary of such Director? I suppose about £400 per year; in the other colonies Directors get from £600 or £800.

42. *By the Chairman.*—What do you think a Hansard such as we desire could be done for? In the way I spoke of, I should fancy for about £2000 per year.

43. Could it not be done for less? I do not think it could be done for less than £1500 or £2000 but you could get that evidence from Mr. Davies himself.

44. *By Mr. Smith.*—You would not like to say? I do not know; I am not a practical printer, I only speak as a shorthand reporter. All the governments in the other colonies have a shorthand reporter, who is available in session and out of session.

45. When do they extend their notes? Whilst the work of Parliament is proceeding. The staff take turns, or "takes," and whilst awaiting their turn the work of extension takes place.

46. *By the Chairman.*—You cannot say definitely what the cost of such a record as we desire would be? No, not definitely; but the contractor would want to make a reasonable profit. If it would cost him £1500, he would probably want about £2000. If the actual cost was £1000 he might ask £1500.

47. Considering the amount the *Mercury* already gives as a report, do you not think they would give a little more for a reasonable sum of money? Considering the amount the *Mercury* already gives as a report, I think Parliament should be prepared to pay a reasonable sum if they want more. I should like to add a few words here on this subject in reply to what Mr. Norton-Smith said when the subject was being debated in the Assembly. He said that it would be impossible for the same men who reported for the Hansard to be present at a Select Committee next morning to take down evidence in shorthand. This is an entire misapprehension, as the presence of myself and Mr. M'Williams (the shorthand reporter

of the *Examiner*) here this morning proves, for we were at work in the gallery until nearly midnight yesterday, and shall be again probably this evening, but that does not prevent our working in the morning. In fact, such a combination of work is the common lot of a newspaper reporter everywhere.

CHARLES ELLIS DAVIES *called and examined.*

48. *By the Chairman.*—You are proprietor of the *Mercury*? Yes.
49. Have you had any practical experience of the working of Hansard? No.
50. If tenders were called for the publication of a Hansard for the Tasmanian Parliament, would you feel disposed to tender for it? I do not think I would; my present idea is that I would not care to tender.
51. You would not care to go into competition by public contract? No; I should set a certain value on the work, and it would look invidious for others, perhaps, to place half that value on the work.
52. *By Mr. Bird.*—Does not that apply to all tenders? That may be; but any person going in for the publication of reports such as I believe you are anxious to have brought out would of necessity have to make alterations in his staff and office. The contract would have to be made for a certain number of years. It is a very difficult matter to get efficient pressmen just for a time of the year, so that any person who attempted to carry out this work would require an efficient staff who would have to be engaged all the year round.
53. *By Mr. Bird.*—For what amount do you think a tolerably complete and reliable record of our proceedings of Parliament could be procured for each Session? I think what Mr. W. T. H. Brown said in Parliament would be somewhere near it—about £2000 per year. It is a very difficult matter to calculate, but I do not think the cost would exceed that amount,—in fact, it might be done for less.
54. *By the Chairman.*—How many columns could be granted for that sum? About nine columns.
55. *By Mr. Bird.*—Do you think for that sum special copies could be set in book form? That sum would include everything. Of course the record would be kept in the shape of a pamphlet,—I should suggest something the shape of the *Tasmanian Mail*. If the form were much altered it might increase the expense.
56. *By the Chairman.*—Could you undertake the publication of a Hansard? Yes, but it would depend very much on who would have control. It would be very awkward if, after the publication of a report, the Members of Parliament altered the reports much, for if they were much altered it means doubling the price of composition. I presume you do not require a verbatim report; and another difficulty in supplying a report in condensed form is in satisfying the members. We have to trust to the discretion of our reporters, for if reported sometimes the speeches could not be got in.
57. But if you had not to get out the speeches before 9 o'clock, could you not do it then? That would not suit us at all. The Parliamentary report must appear with the paper.
58. *By Mr. Gray.*—Is not your establishment now of such a complete character that you can better afford to do this at a reasonable rate than an establishment that has not the ordinary appliances? Of course; our establishment is very complete, and I do not know that any one is better able to carry out the requirements of the Committee than the *Mercury*; but I would want to double my staff of compositors, and very nearly double my staff of reporters.
59. Would you want to see the final arrangements before making a price? I only give an approximate cost of what I think the Committee requires. Of course I would not bind myself to it, for it requires very careful consideration.
60. What length of time do you suppose an office would require before commencing a Hansard, to obtain a staff, &c.? Three months' notice should be given at the least to enable the necessary preparations being made.

A P P E N D I X.

House of Assembly, 18th September, 1885.

GENTLEMEN,

As Chairman of the Committee on Hansard, I would be much obliged to you for answers to the following questions:—

1. Would you be prepared to tender for the publication of a daily Hansard, containing equal to from eight to twelve columns of the *Mercury*, each night's debate to be reported and published in Hobart the following morning?
2. Would you be prepared to tender for the publication of such a Hansard, to be published in Launceston the morning after the previous evening's debate, and in Hobart the following evening?
3. What would be the probable cost of such a publication in each case?
4. Can you offer any suggestion as to the best way of procuring a reliable and moderately complete record of the proceedings of Parliament?

I have, &c.

WILLIAM T. H. BROWN.

To the Proprietors "Examiner," Launceston.

Launceston, 22nd September, 1885.

SIR,

WE have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your favour of 18th inst., making certain enquiries in reference to a proposed Hansard, to which we beg to submit the following replies:—

1. We would be prepared to tender for the publication of a daily Hansard, containing equal to from eight to twelve columns of the *Mercury*, each night's debate to be published in Launceston the following morning, and in Hobart in the evening of that day.

2. The cheapest and most convenient form, it seems to us, to carry out the object in view, would be to publish extended reports of each day's debates in a supplement to the newspaper; then to furnish each speaker with proof slips of his remarks, which he might correct, and, if he pleased, supply omissions; the matter so corrected to be reprinted in a pamphlet form for permanent record in Parliament and for the use of members. This is done in Sydney.

3. From an estimate we have made we are of opinion that, approximately, a sufficiently copious report might be secured on an average space of eight columns of the *Examiner* daily (the columns of the *Examiner* are one inch shorter than those of the *Mercury*). We do not understand that you ask us now to tender,—and, indeed, the short time at our disposal would not be sufficient to go carefully into the question and make enquiries respecting reporting staff, &c. We may say, however, that we are in a position to do the work as well and cheaply as any newspaper office in the Colony. As we should issue the full reports with our weekly paper, the *Tasmanian*, as well as with the *Examiner*, they receive a wider circulation than would be possible by any other means.

As considerable expense and anxiety would be involved in procuring and retaining an efficient staff, we think that any contract should extend over a period of at least three years. Payment up to 7 per cent. should be made weekly, or fortnightly at latest.

In any tender that we might make when formally invited to do so, we should proceed on the assumption that for the transmission of parliamentary reports the telegraph would be placed at our disposal free of charge. As the work of transmission would go on continuously from the time that Parliament sat, one operator would be sufficient for the purpose generally; occasionally he might need help. There would have to be a minimum charge per week, because the reporting and mechanical staff would have to be paid and kept up whether fully employed or not.

Should you require any further information we shall be most happy to supply it.

We have, &c.

AIKENHEAD & BUTTON.

W. T. H. BROWN, Esq., M.H.A.,
Chairman Hansard Committee.

24th September, 1885.

DEAR SIR,

I AM in receipt of yours of the 23rd instant, in which you wish me to answer the following questions, viz.—If tenders were called for a Hansard would I tender for the work? I answer, most assuredly I should; and, as you say it is to be supplied every morning, without naming the hour, I would suggest, in order to enable the work to be done properly and corrected as it should be, that the hour of issue be not later than 12 noon. Work is never so well done at night, especially when the House sits till midnight, as it would be by giving more time in the morning. In reply to your question "Have you any knowledge of the working of a Hansard?" I reply, as much as any one else here, and I have those in the office who have done the work before; the main object being to employ a first-rate staff of reporters, with a good chief to revise copy.

From a rough calculation, a sheet Hansard, containing matter on an average equal to 10 columns of the *Mercury*, and issued not later than 8 A.M., daily, when the House is sitting, to the Members (say 100 copies), and 4000 (the guaranteed issue of the *News*) at 2 P.M. with the paper, would cost about £1300 for the Session. A book Hansard, similar to that issued in New Zealand at the end of the Session to each of the Members, with a few copies for records in addition to the above, would not cost more than £200 more. Of course what information I have given you is without prejudice to any tender I may make when I know exactly what is required.

I remain, &c.

HENRY H. GILL.

W. T. H. BROWN, Esq., M.H.A.,
Chairman Hansard Committee.

Launceston, 21st September, 1885.

DEAR SIR,

YOUR favour of the 18th instant came to hand this morning, asking—

1st. Would I be prepared to tender for the publication of a daily Hansard, containing from 8 to 12 columns of the *Mercury*, to be published in Hobart the following morning?

In reply thereto permit me to say that, with the present information, it is rather difficult to make an estimate. Is it intended that the Hansard is to be printed and sold to subscribers, or will Government order a certain number of copies? Viewing the matter from my present standpoint, I am inclined to say that I would tender, and that the cost would be from £2500 to £3000 per annum.

2. Hansard to be published in Launceston in the morning, and Hobart same evening. This would entail a very heavy payment for telegrams (about £30 per week), and unless special privileges were granted to the publisher of Hansard—such as allowing him to use a telephone from Hobart to Launceston, or a very great reduction in the price of telegrams—this is out of the question altogether. In case of privileges being granted as indicated above, I think the cost might be a little lessened.

With a sufficient subsidy I would be prepared to provide a “reliable and moderately complete record,” printing it first in newspaper form, and then, after correction (if necessary), in book form for future reference. The cost would, of course, depend upon the number of copies required, but I think it would not exceed £3000 per annum.

Any further information that you may require I shall be glad to supply.

I am, &c.

JAS. BRICKHILL, *Proprietor “Daily Telegraph.”*

W. T. H. BROWN, *Esq., M.H.A., Hobart.*

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 13th October, 1885.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd ultimo, I have the honor to forward the under-mentioned communications which have been received by the Chief Secretary, for the information of the Select Committee appointed to “report upon the best means of securing a reliable record of the Proceedings of this House” :—

The Chief Secretary, Victoria, 16th September, 1885.

The Chief Secretary, South Australia, 23rd September, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, 29th September, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary, Queensland, 2nd October, 1885.

No letter has been received from the Government of New Zealand.

I have, &c.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

HENRY T. MANING, *Esq.,*
Committee Clerk, House of Assembly.

New Zealand.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 26th September, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, requesting to be informed whether any change has taken place in the system of Parliamentary Reporting in New Zealand since the 27th December, 1876.

In reply I beg to inform you that the system of Reporting remains the same. The salary of the Chief Reporter has been increased from £500 to £600 per annum, and the salaries of the six Reporters from £250 to £300 each per annum.

I have, &c.

F. A. BUCKLEY.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Hobart.

South Australia.
Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 23rd September, 1885.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 5th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the system of Parliamentary Reporting referred to in my predecessor's letter of 23rd December, 1876, is still in force in this Colony.

I beg to transmit herewith a copy of the existing contract, and two copies of the weekly reports of the proceedings of Parliament (now in session) supplied under the contract.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Premier, Tasmania.

JNO. W. DOWNER.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CORRESPONDENCE, &c. *RE* PRINTING AND PUBLISHING HANSARD.

RETURN to Order of the House of Assembly (Mr. Rees, July 30th, 1884), being Copy of Hansard Contract and Correspondence &c. in connection therewith.

Memorandum of Agreement made and entered into this twelfth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four between the Honorable John Colton of Adelaide in the Province of South Australia Chief Secretary of the said Province and herein contracting as a public officer for and on behalf of the Government of the Province aforesaid of the one part and Thomas Harry of the Exchange Adelaide of the other part Whereas in pursuance of calls for tenders by advertisement dated the seventeenth day of April last duly published in the *Government Gazette* the said Thomas Harry (hereinafter styled the contractor) tendered upon the terms hereinafter expressed for the publication of a report of the debates and proceedings of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly respectively for a term of three years commencing on the first day of the next meeting of Parliament which tender has been accepted by the said Chief Secretary Now therefore in consideration of receiving from the Treasurer for the time being the sums of money at the times and in manner hereinafter mentioned the said contractor doth hereby agree with the said Chief Secretary that he will with all reasonable dispatch forthwith and continuously for a term of three years commencing on the first day of the first session of the eleventh Parliament (5th June 1884) or for so long as this agreement shall be in force prepare edit print and publish either in brevier emerald minion or nonpareil type daily in a newspaper reports of the debates and proceedings in the Legislative Council and House of Assembly respectively such reports to consist of a fair abstract of all speeches occurring in an ordinary debate and a complete and accurate report of all speeches upon matters of general public interest so often as the same shall arise and to furnish on the morning of the day following each debate a proof slip to each member of the said Legislative Council and House of Assembly respectively of his speech or speeches thereon It is also agreed that no additional charge shall be made for any alterations or corrections which may be required to be made in such reports provided such alterations or corrections be returned to the offices of the said contractor in Adelaide aforesaid by noon of the day following the day on which such proof shall have been supplied And it is also agreed that the said Chief Secretary shall appoint a suitable person to act as a referee in cases where any difference shall arise between the said contractor and any Member of the Legislature respecting the adoption of any proposed addition or correction in any report and it is agreed that the decision of such referee shall be final And it is also agreed that the said contractor shall at the end of every week during the sitting of the said Parliament deliver to the Clerks of both Houses of Parliament complete copies of the debates for the preceding week as published in the daily paper in the form known as Hansard one copy for each Member and six copies for reference such weekly copies to be bound in paper covers and each copy to have on the outside front cover a complete index of its contents and also that the said contractor shall deliver at the said Chief Secretary's offices in like manner six copies of such weekly debates all such copies to be of the same pattern as the New South Wales weekly Parliamentary debates filed in the offices of the said Chief Secretary and it is also agreed that the said contractor shall within two months from the close of each Parliamentary Session deliver at the offices of the said Chief Secretary 350 copies of the reports as aforesaid of such Session in large octavo printed either in brevier emerald minion or nonpareil type bound in cloth and lettered and to contain full and complete indices of the contents relating to either House of Parliament respectively And the said John Colton as such Chief Secretary as aforesaid for and on behalf of the said Government hereby agrees to pay monthly during the continuance of this contract to the said contractor in consideration of his supplying the work labour and materials aforesaid the sum of five pounds and ten shillings per day when neither House sits beyond four hours and a half for each day's report and publication of the proceedings in Parliament but should either House of the said Parliament continue its sittings beyond the space of four hours and a half then the said Chief Secretary agrees to pay to the said contractor in addition to the said sum of five pounds and ten shillings a further sum of one pound and five shillings for each hour or portion of an hour such period to be computed from the expiration of the said four and a half hours until the rising of the House for the day for each day's report and publication of the proceedings in Parliament aforesaid the time during which the said Houses or either of them shall be sitting to be decided by the clock used in each House respectively provided that in computing the said four hours and a half the House shall be deemed sitting from the hour of its assembling to the hour of its rising for the day And the said Chief Secretary also agrees to pay to the said contractor for the weekly copies of the said debates during the sitting of the said Parliament the sum of three pounds per week And a further sum of fifteen shillings each so soon as three hundred and fifty copies of such reports printed and bound as aforesaid shall have been delivered as aforesaid within two months after the close of each Session such sums to be respectively payable at the Treasury in Adelaide aforesaid Provided that if such period of three years shall expire during any Parliamentary session then this contract shall continue in force until the termination of such Session Provided always that in the event of a resolution at any time being proposed by the Government and adopted by the House of Assembly that the reports are incorrect defective or otherwise not according to the fair construction of this contract then it shall be competent for the said Chief Secretary at any time not being less than one calendar month nor more than three calendar months from the passing of such resolution by notice in writing signed by the said Chief Secretary to be addressed to the said contractor and posted or left at his place of business in Adelaide to determine this agreement and the same shall thenceforth be at an end but without prejudice to any right or remedy which may have accrued to the said Chief Secretary in consequence of such default Provided always that if the House of Assembly shall adopt a resolution that the reports of the Parliamentary debates under this agreement shall be discontinued it shall be competent for the said Chief Secretary at any time not being less than one calendar month nor more than three calendar months from the day of the first meeting of the first session of the Eleventh Parliament by notice in writing as aforesaid to absolutely determine this agreement and the same shall thenceforth be at an end And it is further agreed that in case of any extraordinary or special sessions being held during the said term of three years 350 copies of the debates of such special sessions shall be furnished without extra charge and be bound up with the

debates of the principal session if such special session shall be held and closed within one month from the date of the closing of the said principal session for the year but should such special session commence after the said period of one month and continue in session for a period of not exceeding two months then there shall be paid to the said contractor on delivery of 350 copies of the debates as aforesaid the sum of ten shillings for each volume. And it is hereby further agreed that should such special session be of longer duration than two months then the full sum of fifteen shillings shall be paid for the 350 volumes of the debates aforesaid on their delivery to the said Chief Secretary. And it is lastly agreed and made an express condition of this contract that no Member of the Parliament of South Australia shall be admitted to any share or part in this contract or to any benefit to arise therefrom. As witness the hands of the said parties the day and year first before written

JOHN COLTON

Signed by the said John Colton in the presence of
CHAS. C. CORNISH Chief Clerk Law Officers of the Crown

THOMAS HARRY

Signed by the said Thomas Harry in the presence of
E. C. MOORE Solicitor Adelaide

Hansard Contract.

Adelaide, 21st June, 1884.

SIR,—In reply to your enquiry I have to inform you that the present contract, being for weekly copies of "Hansard," as under—

52 to H.A.
24 to L.C.
6 to Clerks of Houses.
6 to Chief Secretary.

88 for £3 weekly.

I am prepared to deliver the following extra copies for £1 a week:—

C.C.L., 1; Conservator of Water, 1; Governor, 1; C.P.W., 1; Attorney-General, 2; Parl. Librarian, 2; Treasurer (for Attorney-General), 1; Minister of Education, 3; Engineer-in-Chief, 1; Treasurer, 2; Clerk L.C., 3; Chief Secretary, 7; Surveyor-General, 1; Clerk H.A., 3; Jubilee Exhibition, 1. Making 30 extra weekly copies.

I have, &c.

To the Under Secretary.

THOMAS HARRY, *Hansard Contractor.**Hansard Weekly Contract.*

Adelaide, 23rd July, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor, in reply to your enquiry, to state that the cost of one hundred (100) extra weekly copies of Hansard will be three pounds fifteen shillings (£3 15s.) per week.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

THOMAS HARRY, *Hansard Contractor.**Hansard Contract.*

Adelaide, 23rd July, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor, in reply to your enquiry, to state that I am prepared to index the 1883 volume of Hansard for sixty pounds (£60), on the model of index to Imperial Hansard; the manuscript of index to be supplied by me to the Government Printer. The work would take about 600 hours' constant application to complete, at, say, 2s. per hour.

The charge for the current volume would be one hundred and twenty pounds (£120), including printing and binding in with 350 volumes specified for under the contract.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

THOMAS HARRY, *Hansard Contractor.*

The cost of printing such an index will be about £65. I calculate its length at seventy-eight pages. The index to a similar-sized volume of the Imperial Parliament, which is printed in much larger type, containing much less matter, is forty-eight pages.

The preparation of the same can be done, I think, for at least two-thirds of the cost mentioned within.

I would suggest that in order to have a useful index at as low a cost as possible that, while following the style of the Imperial Hansard, much less detailed information should be given, but still have a double reference to each subject, viz., under the subject itself, and under the names of the several members speaking on the subject.

26th July, 1884.

E. SPILLER, *Government Printer.*

Explanation of Abbreviations.—1 r, first reading; 2 r, second reading; 3 r, third reading; ad, assented to; rd, reserved; q, question; a, answer.

BILLS.

Legislative Council.

Distillation, 1 r, 80; 2 r, 90; 3 r, 100; rd.
Education, 1 r, 40; 2 r, 50; 3 r, 60; ad., 80

House of Assembly.

Distillation, 1 r, 30; 2 r, 90; 3 r, 100; rd.
Education, 1 r, 26; 2 r, 30; 3 r, 40; ad, 70.

CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. C. Bray).

Distillation Bill, 1 r, 30; Farina, North—Water Supply,
a to q, 40; Education Bill, 2 r, 42.

FARINA, North—Water Supply.

q, Mr. Coglin; a, Chief Secretary (Hon. J. C. Bray), 40.

COGLIN.

q, Farina, North—Water Supply, 40.

Hansard Index.

Adelaide, 28th July, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor to refer to my letter of 23rd instant *re* above, and to state if an index in the modified form shown below would meet the wishes of the Government, the cost would be £105, including printing and binding in with the 350 volumes under the contract.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

THOMAS HARRY, *Hansard Contractor.*

Explanation of Abbreviations.—1 r, first reading; 2 r, second reading; 3 r, third reading; ad, assented to; rd, reserved; q, question; a, answer.

BILLS.

Legislative Council.

Distillation, 1 r, 80; 2 r, 90; 3 r, 100; rd.
Education, 1 r, 40; 2 r, 50; 3 r, 60; ad, 80.

House of Assembly.

Distillation, 1 r, 30; 2 r, 90; 3 r, 100; rd.
Education, 1 r, 26; 2 r, 30; 3 r, 40; ad, 70.

CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. C. Bray).

Distillation Bill, 1 r, 30; Farina, North—Water Supply,
a to q, 40; Education Bill, 2 r, 42.

FARINA, North—Water Supply.

q, Mr. Coglein; a, Chief Secretary (Hon. J. C. Bray), 40.

COGLIN.

q, Farina, North—Water Supply, 40.

Hansard Printing—Leading of Type.

Adelaide, 28th July, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that cost of leading would be £6 10s. per day. The work would involve heavy extra payment to printers for setting type, extra paper, and would also add much to the bulk of the weekly numbers and sessional volumes.

I have, &c.

To the Hon. the Chief Secretary.

THOMAS HARRY, *Hansard Contractor.*

[Memo.]

Government Printing Office, 29th July, 1884.

I estimate the extra cost of "thin-leading the Hansard" at—

	£	s.	d.
If leaded after appearance in the daily paper.....	136	0	0
If leaded before insertion in daily paper	90	0	0

E. SPILLER, *Government Printer.*

Queensland.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 2nd October, 1885.

SIR,

IN compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 5th ultimo, I have the honor to forward to you the accompanying copy of a Memorandum by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, affording the required information on the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in this Colony.

I have, &c.

S. W. GRIFFITH.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary of Tasmania, Hobart.

MEMORANDUM on letter dated 5th instant, from the Chief Secretary of Tasmania, in the matter of Parliamentary Reporting in Queensland.

1. SINCE the date of my Memorandum of 20th December, 1876, printed at page 4 of Tasmanian Parliamentary Paper No. 57, 1877, the Daily Hansard then alluded to has been published as a morning broadsheet in addition to the weekly form, and supplied at cheap rates * to the proprietors of various newspapers, who distribute it with their own publications. The first Daily Hansard was issued in May, 1877. Annexed is an example of each form.

2. The cost of the Reporting staff for the year 1884-5, as voted, was £3578, made up as follows; viz.—

Chief Shorthand Writer, Hansard Staff.....	£	600
Shorthand Writers, 1 at £450, 1 at £400, 7 at £300		2950
Messengers, 1 for day, and 1 for night, 5 months		28
		<u>3578</u>

This amount was exceeded by about £70 for extra reporters, rendered necessary by pressure of work in the two Houses.

* HANSARD RATES.

Sessional.—Booksellers, newspapers, and others (taking less than 100), $\frac{1}{2}d.$ each up to, and $1d.$ each if over, 8 pages; newspapers, $3s. 3d.$ per hundred; subscribers, $5s.$ per Session.

Occasional.—Cash sales, $1d.$ each; newspapers, booksellers, and others, $6s. 6d.$ per hundred, or $1d.$ each if less than one hundred.

3. The vote for printing the daily sheet and the book Hansard for the year 1884-5 was £3200; the amount received from sales was £806.

4. The proofs are now regularly submitted to Members for revision.

(Signed) LEWIS A. BERNAYS,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Houses of Parliament, Brisbane, 23rd September, 1885.

New South Wales.
Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 29th September, 1885.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 5th instant, requesting to be informed whether any change has taken place in the system of Parliamentary Reporting in this Colony since the 4th January, 1877, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a copy of a Report (dated 23rd September, 1885) on the subject that has been obtained from the Principal Shorthand Writer of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff.

I have, &c.

ALEX. STUART.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary of Tasmania, Hobart.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Assembly Chambers, Sydney, 23rd September, 1885.

MEMORANDUM to the Principal Under-Secretary.

IN attention to your B-C Minute of the 21st September, upon the letter of the Chief Secretary of Tasmania, dated 5th September instant, I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to submit the following observations for the information of the Honorable the Colonial Secretary:—

(1.) The Debates in Parliament, Select Committees, Royal Commissions, and Government Boards of Enquiry, are reported by a staff of seven shorthand writers appointed by the Governor in Executive Council, whose salaries amount to £3850 per annum. The debates are published weekly, and copies are sent to Honorable Members of both Houses, to the heads of Government Departments, to the libraries of Schools of Arts, and to the newspaper press throughout the Colony, free of charge. At the end of each Session the Debates, bound in volumes, are presented to Members. The Parliament of New South Wales consists of 172 Members. The duration of its Sessions has averaged from eight to ten months, and the length of sitting has often been protracted. The report has been practically *verbatim*. A smaller staff of shorthand writers would probably suffice to produce an official report of the debates of the Tasmanian Parliament, and the cost of printing, which would be governed by the length of the reports, could readily be ascertained from the price per thousand "ems" current in Hobart.

(2.) The only portion of the reports which are submitted for revision are the Financial Statements of the Treasurer, the rulings of the President of the Council and the Speaker of the Assembly, and the opinions of the Chairmen of Committees of both Houses. The principal shorthand writer is held responsible for the accuracy of the reports of all other speeches.

(3.) If the question—"Is the plan working satisfactorily?" applies to the manner in which the debates are reported, I do not feel that I ought to offer an opinion, although I may perhaps be permitted to say that during the five years which cover the period of publication of the official record no expression of dissatisfaction on the part of Parliament or of individual Members has reached me.

(4.) The principal advantages of an official report are that—

- (a) It preserves in an authentic form the rulings of the President and Speaker, which form the law of Parliament and control its procedure.
- (b) It records the reasons upon which legislation is proposed and adopted, and hence forms the groundwork of the constitutional history of the Colony.
- (c) It facilitates the business of Parliament: for, while debates in one House cannot be referred to in the same Session in the other, it is important that Members of one House should know the reasons which influence and guide the other branch of the Legislature in the adoption, rejection, or amendment of measures pending in Parliament.
- (d) It facilitates the business of public departments by enabling the officers of the Government to become acquainted with the statements of Ministers having reference to public works, to the administration of justice, and to the various matters which form the subject of inquiry in Parliament.
- (e) It is calculated to preserve the independence of Parliament, and affords to individual Members a means of vindicating their public conduct before their constituents—means which in many cases they would not otherwise possess by reason of the fact that the publishers of newspapers owe no responsibility to Parliament, and often find it convenient to curtail reports of debates, and postpone their publication on grounds based solely on business and mechanical considerations.
- (f) The newspaper report, presuming it to be as full and accurate as the official report, is not available for reference beyond the day of publication, whereas the official report is preserved in a form which makes it readily accessible either in Parliament or in the library of the individual Member.

I forward herewith a copy of the report of the Session No. 1, 1885, which may serve to show the general arrangement and character of the Debates' reports.

CHAS. ROBINSON, *Principal Shorthand Writer.*

Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 16th September, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant (No. 1839), and in reply I beg to inform you that since your last enquiries on the same subject in 1876 the arrangements and system of Parliamentary Reporting in this Colony remain substantially the same.

I have, &c.

GRAHAM BERRY.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Hobart.

Queensland.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 24th October, 1885.

SIR,

REFERRING to your letter of the 14th instant, I have the honor to forward to you the accompanying specimen copies (one of each) of the daily and weekly Hansard issued in connection with the Parliament of this Colony, omitted to be sent with my previous communication on the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in Queensland.

I have, &c.

R. J. GRAY,
For the Colonial Secretary.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary of Tasmania, Hobart.
