

(No. 6.)



1866.

SESSION II.

T A S M A N I A.

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 23 November, 1866.



REPORT of the RETURNING OFFICER appointed by the Governor in Council to take the Poll of the Landholders of the RAILWAY DISTRICT, under the Provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," 29 Vict. No. 24.

T A S M A N I A.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 16th October, 1865.

SIR,

I BEG to acquaint you that, in accordance with the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," 29 Victoria, No. 24, Section 112, the Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint you to be Returning Officer for the purposes of the said Act; with remuneration at the rate of £2 2s. a day, and travelling and personal expenses on the usual scale, while on duty in the Railway District.

His Excellency has also approved of your being provided with clerical assistance if required.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

JAMES WHYTE.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, 20th October, 1865.

SIR,

REFERRING to my letter of the 16th instant, acquainting you that the Governor in Council had been pleased to appoint you Returning Officer under "The Launceston and Deloraine Railway Act," I have now to direct your attention to the following general instructions as to your performance of the duties devolving upon you by virtue of that appointment.

On all points where the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 29 Vict. No. 24, fail to prescribe specifically the course to be pursued by the Returning Officer, you will be good enough to conform, as closely as possible, to the tenor of these instructions.

1st.—*Preparation of the Polling List. (Sect. 119.)*

In preparing the Polling List specified in Section 119, you will follow, as nearly as the case will allow, the arrangements prescribed by "The Electoral Act," 21 Vict. No. 32.

Consult the Road Trustees and Police Rate Collectors in the several Districts; and when you have compiled the Polling List, assisted and corrected by such information as those authorities can afford you, cause the List to be published in the several Districts, and, after due notice, in the *Gazette* and in two newspapers in Launceston. Attend at each Polling-place named in the Schedule to the Act of Parliament, and revise the List,—sitting in open Court to hear claims and objections, &c.

2nd.—*Printing the Polling List. (Sect. 119.)*

The Government not thinking it desirable that the Polling List should be printed by the Government Printer, you are authorised to cause such printing as the Act requires to be executed in private establishments.

Looking at the state of public feeling in the Northern Division of the Colony, it is desirable that the work should not be assigned to any single office. The Government wish that the printing should be distributed as equally as practicable between the printing offices of the *Cornwall Chronicle* and the *Launceston Examiner*, and you will make your arrangements accordingly.

3rd.—*Appointment of Deputies.* (Sect. 114.)

The Act of Parliament leaves the selection of these Officers to the Returning Officer. The Government have no wish to fetter your discretion in this matter, or to dictate whom you shall name for this duty.

But the Government conceive that you would do well to apply, in the first instance, to the Wardens of Longford, Deloraine, and Westbury, whose official position seems to designate them for this office almost as a matter of course.

You are required by the Act to appoint your Deputies in writing; and you will further require them, before entering upon their duties, to subscribe a Declaration, upon honor, similar to that made by Deputy Returning Officers under "The Electoral Act."

The Government look to you to exercise the utmost caution in making these appointments, so that no exception may be taken to any gentleman named by you on the ground of partizanship on either side of the Railway Assessment question.

You are authorised to offer your Deputies a remuneration of £3 3s. a day while actually engaged in taking the Poll, and such travelling allowance as may be necessary, in addition, to cover the expense of delivering to you personally in Launceston the signed Poll List, Ballot Papers, and Abstract of the Poll.

4th.—*Appointment of Scrutineers.* (Sect. 116.)

You will appoint such Scrutineers as you may think necessary, within the limit named in the Act, in writing, and cause them to subscribe a Declaration, upon honor, to the same effect as that taken by Scrutineers under "The Electoral Act."

The Scrutineers to be named by the Launceston and Deloraine Railway Company may be taken to be appointed to watch the Registration in the interest of the Railway Assessment. You will have no difficulty in appointing as your Scrutineers persons named to you by gentlemen also taking a leading part on the opposite side of the Assessment question.

You will require the Company's Scrutineers to subscribe a Declaration, upon honor, similar to that taken by Scrutineers of your own appointment.

5th.—*Poll Clerks.* (Sect. 115.)

You are authorised to offer a remuneration of £2 2s. a day to Poll Clerks.

You will probably require two such Assistants at the principal Polling-place. But on this point you must be guided by the number of Landholders assigned to each Polling-place.

6th.—*Taking the Poll.* (Sect. 119.)

When "The Launceston and Deloraine Railway Act" is silent, you must be guided in taking the Poll, and in the general conduct of the Election, by the precedents afforded by "The Electoral Act;" and you will give precise instructions to your Deputies to the same effect.

7th.—*Hiring Rooms, &c.* (Sect. 115.)

For the purpose of revising the Polling List and taking the Poll, you are authorised to use, wherever it may be practicable, Public Buildings the property of the Government. In Launceston the Court House will be placed at your disposal. In the Rural Municipalities the Council Chambers will, in all probability, be available for these purposes. At Perth, Evandale, and Carriek you can use the Police Offices, or hire rooms if those buildings are found unsuitable.

You will obtain from the Government Printer such copies of the Valuation Rolls as you may require in conformity with the Act of Parliament.

You are authorised to purchase such stationery and writing materials and other articles as may be necessary for taking the Poll, and to send in accounts, with proper vouchers, for payment at the Treasury.

You will be especially careful to incur no unnecessary expense of any kind, bearing in mind that the cost of the Registration must be defrayed eventually by the Launceston and Deloraine Railway Company.

In furnishing you with the foregoing instructions, the Government deem it unnecessary to give you any further specific directions for your guidance in the discharge of your duties, beyond expressing a confident expectation that you will so conduct the Registration of Landholders as to afford no opportunity for subsequent exception or complaint from any quarter; and that your demeanor towards all parties with whom your official duties may bring you into contact will be marked by uniform courtesy and impartiality, without favour or affection, and without any distinction of persons or politics.

The Government have entrusted to you a delicate and responsible function, and rely with confidence on your capacity and integrity to discharge it efficiently and faithfully.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

JAMES WHYTE.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esg.*, *Returning Officer under*
"The Launceston and Deloraine Railway Act."

R E P O R T.

To His Excellency the Governor in Council.

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency an Abstract of the total result of the Poll of the Landholders of the Launceston and Western Railway District, as taken at the principal Polling-place and the several other Polling-places, on the 18th December instant, under the provisions of the Launceston and Western Railway Act, 29 Victoriae, No. 24; together with the several copies of the Polling List upon which the signatures and registration of the Landholders have been written, signed by myself and by the several Deputy Returning Officers respectively.

The Abstract shows that 1073 Landholders came to the Poll and registered 2822 Votes. There were 9 informal or invalid Ballot-papers, representing 18 Votes. 163 Landholders registered 545 Votes "No;" and 901 Landholders registered 2259 Votes "Yes." The total number of Landholders on the Polling List was 1403. It results from this Poll that the Landholders have, by a majority of Two out of Three Votes, (and 391 Votes and a fraction to spare) expressed their willingness to be chargeable with a rate in event of deficiency of interest on the Bonds issuable, with the guarantee of Your Excellency in Council, by "The Launceston and Western Railway Company, Limited."

In forwarding to Your Excellency this formal result of my proceedings as Returning Officer for the Launceston and Western Railway District, I am anxious to express my acknowledgments of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the several gentlemen who undertook the duties of Deputy Returning Officers, by my appointment, and from the Chairmen of the various Road Trusts comprised within the Railway District.

I am also indebted for considerable assistance, in the completion and revision of the Polling List, to the Mayor of Launceston and other gentlemen representing the Launceston and Western Railway Company, Limited; and to Messrs. A. Barrett, J.P., James Scott, J.P., James R. Scott, J.P., John Mitchell, and J. F. Houghton, representing the Landholders who are opposed to the construction of the Railway on the re-guarantee principle.

In accordance with my instructions from the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, I held open Courts of Revision in Launceston, Evandale, Longford, Carrick, Westbury, and Deloraine.

The result was eminently satisfactory. Public confidence was established in the intentions of the Government to carry out the provisions of the Act of Parliament in a spirit of impartiality and

liberality; every qualified Landholder in the Railway District was placed upon the Polling List; and I am not aware of a single instance of a tendered vote being rejected at the Poll, on the ground of the omission of the claimant's name from the List of persons entitled to exercise their franchise under the Railway Act.

The Poll was taken on the 18th December instant, pursuant to a notice under my hand, published, as required by the Act, in the *Gazette* and in newspapers published in Hobart Town and Launceston.

At the principal Polling-place, where I presided in person, the Municipal authorities of the Town of Launceston placed at my disposal the materials and apparatus ordinarily used at civic elections; and the Mayor was good enough to allow the officers and servants of the Corporation to assist me in several minor preliminary arrangements, which could not have been so conveniently entrusted to unofficial persons.

George Browne, Esquire, the Under-Sheriff, supported me by his presence in the Ballot-room throughout the whole proceedings; and Mr. District Constable Propsting, of the Territorial Police Force, also attended me during the Poll, at my request, to maintain my authority if occasion arose.

Ample arrangements, however, were made by the Superintendent of the Launceston Municipal Police for the orderly conduct of the Registration, which happily passed off without any necessity for the intervention of the authorities.

In the Rural Municipalities, where the Wardens acted as my Deputies, the Municipal Council Chambers and the services of the Police were courteously placed at my disposal by the Municipal authorities.

At Evandale the Poll was taken before John Ralston, Esq., J.P., now Warden of that Municipality, in the Court of Petty Sessions; and at Carrick and Perth the Polling took place, in rooms hired in the principal Hotels, before Charles Arthur, Esq., J.P., and Louis Wood, Esq., respectively.

No necessity arose at any Polling-place for resorting to the power of adjournment conferred by Section 122 of the Launceston and Western Railway Act; and the Ballot terminated throughout the Railway District at 4 P.M. on Monday, the 18th instant.

I declared the rough state of the Poll, as taken at Launceston, at 6 P.M. the same day; and at noon on Tuesday, the 19th instant, I declared the official result of the Registration throughout the whole Railway District, publicly in the Supreme Court House, Launceston; when a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to myself as Returning Officer; and the proceedings terminated, on my proposal, with three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen.

I have attached to this Report an authentic newspaper account of the proceedings on this occasion, which appeared in the *Cornwall Chronicle* of the following day.

I have also appended to this Report all the original documents used by myself and my Deputies in taking the Poll, including my appointments in writing, under the Launceston and Western Railway Act, of Deputy Returning Officers, Scrutineers, and Poll Clerks; together with the original Declarations made by those officers in accordance with my instructions; and the appointments in writing of Scrutineers by the Launceston and Western Railway Company, Limited, and the Declarations subscribed, at my desire, by those gentlemen.

I have also thought it advisable to place on record the correspondence which has taken place in connection with my duties as Returning Officer, between myself and the several departments of the Government; the gentlemen who acted as my Deputies and Scrutineers; the Mayor of Launceston, and other persons interested in the preparation of the Polling List and the result of the Registration.

I forward herewith copies of this correspondence.

I cannot close my Report without bringing under Your Excellency's notice the courtesy and assistance I have met with from all the officers of the Government with whom my public duty has brought me into contact. I am specially indebted, in this respect, to the Deputy-Commissioner of Crown Lands, and to the Under-Sheriff and Clerk of the Peace, in Launceston; to the Government Printer; to the officers of the Survey Department; to the Director of Public Works and Mr. Gray; and to the Post Office and Telegraph officials on both sides of the Island.

I should have made this Report earlier, but was delayed by the inadvertent omission of some of my Deputies to attach their signatures to the signed Polling Lists. The last of these documents, duly signed, only reached me this morning.

I forward herewith the Ballot Papers used at the late Registration of Landholders, together with the Abstracts of the Poll taken at each Polling-place, made out and signed, under instructions from myself, by my Deputies.

I trust that I shall be thought to have discharged my commission to the satisfaction of Your Excellency. I am honestly conscious of a single desire, throughout the whole of my official proceedings, to perform my duty with credit to Your Excellency's Government, and with a strict impartiality between the Landholders of the Railway District and the Promoters of the Launceston and Western Railway.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

25, Davey-street, Hobart Town,
30th December, 1865.

ENCLOSURES.

1. Total Abstract of the Poll.
 2. Signed Polling List.
 3. Appointments of Deputies, Poll Clerks, and Scrutineers.
 4. Declarations.
 5. Instructions to Deputies.
 6. Abstracts.
 7. Correspondence.
 8. Notices of Revision and Poll.
 9. Account of Declaration of Poll.
 10. Assessment and Valuation Rolls.
 11. Ballot-papers used.
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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY DISTRICT.

REGISTRATION OF LANDHOLDERS.

18TH DECEMBER, 1865.

TOTAL ABSTRACT.

NUMBER.	NAME OF POLLING-PLACE.	LANDHOLDERS ON THE POLLING LIST.	LANDHOLDERS POLLED.			VOTES RECORDED.			NUMBER OF BALLOT PAPERS																														RETURNED.	
			NO.	YES.	Invalid Papers.	NO.	YES.	Invalid Votes.	ISSUED.	USED.																														
										1			2			3			4			5			6		7		8		9		10							
										NO.	YES.	Invalid.	NO.	YES.	Invalid.	NO.	YES.	Invalid.	NO.	YES.	Invalid.	NO.	YES.	Invalid.	NO.	YES.	Invalid.	NO.	YES.	NO.	YES.	NO.	YES.	NO.	YES.	NO.	YES.			
1	LAUNCESTON ..	681	72	443	4	236	1143	11	684	23	220	1	16	85	1	13	46	1	4	21	—	2	20	1	6	15	—	5	—	6	—	2	8	24	164					
2	EVANDALE	70	13	40	1	57	121	1	75	4	20	1	3	8	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	3	4	21						
3	PERTH	67	4	44	1	24	91	2	69	—	30	—	—	8	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	20					
4	LONGFORD	194	37	121	1	118	362	1	204	12	63	1	14	18	—	2	7	—	2	9	—	—	2	—	—	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	14	45					
5	CARRICK.....	45	14	18	—	45	37	—	46	7	7	—	2	7	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	13				
6	WESTBURY	199	12	135	1	28	289	2	203	8	86	—	1	17	1	1	12	—	—	7	—	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	6	56					
7	DELORAINÉ ..	147	11	100	1	37	216	1	147	4	64	1	—	17	—	4	6	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	35					
		1403	163	901	9	545	2259	18	1428	58	490	4	36	160	3	23	75	1	6	43	—	6	27	1	9	25	1	9	4	10	1	6	19	57	354					
			1073*			2822			1074*																															

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

* NOTE.—One Landholder recorded 8 Votes with 2 Ballot Papers for 1 and 7 Votes respectively.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY DISTRICT.

REGISTRATION OF LANDHOLDERS,

18th December, 1865.

PURSUANT to the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," I hereby appoint—

The Honorable William Archer, Esquire,
 John Peyton Jones, Esquire,
 George Gibson, Esquire,
 John Ralston, Esquire,
 Charles Arthur, Esquire,
 Louis Wood, Esquire; and
 Richard Uniacke, Esquire,

to be Deputy Returning Officers for the Launceston and Western Railway District under the said Act.

WITNESS my hand this 1st day of December, 1865.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY DISTRICT.

REGISTRATION OF LANDHOLDERS,

18th December, 1865.

PURSUANT to the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," I hereby appoint—

James Scott, Esquire,
 James Reid Scott, Esquire,
 Abraham Barrett, Esquire,
 John Pearson, Esquire,
 William Sidebottom, Esquire,
 Alfred Collins, Esquire,
 The Hon. John Helder Wedge, Esquire,
 H. E. Stewart, Esquire,
 George Stancombe, Esquire,
 Alexander Clerke, Esquire,
 John Fielder Mitchell, Esquire,
 David Murray, Esquire,
 John Simmons, Esquire,
 Joseph Stanley, Esquire,
 Thomas William Field, Esquire,
 W. M. Dean, Esquire,
 John Hall, Esquire,
 John Field, Esquire,
 James Bennett, Esquire; and
 Henry Dumaresque, Esquire,

to be Scrutineers at the Poll to be taken on the 18th December instant.

GIVEN under my hand this 1st day of December, 1865.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

Launceston and Western Railway Company, Limited,
 14th December, 1865.

SIR,

THE following are the Scrutineers appointed by the Company under "The Launceston and Western Railway Act:—

Launceston—W. D. Grubb, Esquire, Alderman Hart, Geo. Pullen.
Evandale—J. M. Nelson, H. B. Dowie, John Bryan.
Perth—James Bird, David Ritchie, H. P. Dowling.
Carrick—George Grice, Isaac D. Edwards, J. Smith.
Longford—H. B. Nickolls, Geo. Ritchie, A. J. Horne.
Westbury—Henry Laird, S. Montgomery, Thomas Pullen.
Deloraine—S. Henry, H. W. Laws, Geo. Padman.

I am, &c.

HENRY DOWLING, *pro tem. Convener.*R. T. C. YATES, *Esq., Returning Officer, Railway District.*

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

LAUNCESTON AND WESTERN RAILWAY DISTRICT.

REGISTRATION OF LANDHOLDERS,

18th December, 1865.

DECLARATION.

I, ROBERT THOMAS COGHLAN-YATES, the Returning Officer appointed by the Governor in Council to take the Poll of the Landholders under the provisions of the *Launceston and Western Railway Act*, [or one of the Deputy Returning Officers; or, a Scrutineer appointed by the Returning Officer; or, a Scrutineer appointed by the *Launceston and Western Railway Company, Limited*; or, a Poll Clerk appointed by the Returning Officer at the ensuing Poll], do hereby declare upon honor that I will faithfully assist in taking the said Poll, and that I will not in any manner interfere with any Landholder when filling up his Ballot-paper, or attempt to ascertain how any Landholder votes; and in case I should ascertain how any Landholder votes, then that I will not disclose to any person the fact so coming to my knowledge, nor by any word or action, directly or indirectly, aid in discovering the same, except in answer to any question which I may be legally bound to answer, or in compliance with the provisions of *The Launceston and Western Railway Act*.

[58 Declarations subscribed by Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officers, Scrutineers, and Poll Clerks.]

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

INSTRUCTIONS to Deputy Returning Officers, Launceston and Western Railway District.

(CIRCULAR.)

Public Buildings, Launceston, 14th December, 1865.

SIR,

By this day's mail I have forwarded to you the Papers named in the annexed Schedule, for your guidance and use in taking the Poll at ———, on the 18th instant.

2. In conducting the Registration of Landholders you will be good enough to be guided by the provisions of the Electoral Act on cognate points, as closely as possible, except where specially otherwise directed or empowered by "The Launceston and Western Railway Act."

3. I would desire to call your special attention to the following points:—

4. No Landholder, not a Scrutineer, can be allowed, on any pretence whatever, to re-enter the Ballot-room after he has recorded his Vote; and no Non-electors, save Scrutineers, can be permitted to be present in the Ballot-room during the Poll.

5. No Landholder can be permitted, on any pretence whatever, to vote at any other Polling-place than that to which he is assigned to poll in the certified Lists supplied to you by me.

6. The Scrutineers, appointed by myself and the Company respectively, have been supplied with a form of Declaration to be subscribed by each Scrutineer, and handed to the Deputy Returning Officer for transmission to me at the close of the Poll.

7. You will allow no Scrutineer to be present in that capacity in the Ballot-room who shall decline to subscribe the Declaration, or fail to satisfy you that he has already subscribed it before me.

8. The objections which may be taken to any person tendering his vote by Scrutineers, under the 117th Section of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," must be decided upon by you in each case by reference to the Valuation Rolls for the Railway District "for the time being," of which I have supplied you with certified copies.

9. But no enquiry can be permitted as to whether or not any Landholder is entitled to the number of Votes assigned to him on the Polling List.

10. If you are satisfied that the person tendering his Vote is "a Landholder within the meaning of *The Launceston and Western Railway Act*," that is, assessed as an owner at £10 annual value on any Valuation Rolls supplied to you by me, you will allow him to vote in terms of his qualification, as set forth in the certified Polling List forwarded to you with the Ballot-papers.

11. No objection, by whomsoever raised, can be entertained after the Ballot-paper is once delivered into the hands of the Landholder tendering his vote; and under no circumstances will you deliver a second Ballot paper to any Landholder after he has retired into the inner room with the Ballot-paper handed to him by you.

12. In the absence of any provision or authority in the Act of Parliament for asking questions, requiring a Declaration, or exacting an Oath from persons tendering their Votes, you must be guided by your own discretion and personal knowledge, assisted by such information as you may be able to obtain from the Poll Clerks and Scrutineers, in deciding any case of disputed identity or alleged personation.

13. You will cause the Placards sent to you to be placed, one or more in each room in your Polling-place, and elsewhere outside the Polling-place in conspicuous positions.

14. You will cause the Poll Clerks to take the Registration of Landholders on the certified Lists marked "A;" and you will mark off, as having voted, the names of Landholders tendering their Votes before delivering to them the Ballot-paper, as prescribed by "The Electoral Act," on the certified Polling List marked "B."

15. At the close of the Poll you will make out an Abstract in triplicate of the Ballot-papers found in the Ballot-box, using the Poll-books supplied to you.

16. You will hand one of these Abstracts to my Scrutineers, and a second to the Company's Scrutineers; the third you will deliver to me personally or by the hands of your Poll Clerk, together with the Ballot-papers, and the Polling Lists used during the Registration, and such Declarations as may have been handed to you by the Scrutineers.

17. In case of an adjournment of the Poll from any cause, as provided for by "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," you will certify the same to me immediately, and seal up the Ballot-box, unopened, in the presence of the Scrutineers, whom you will invite to affix their seals in addition to your own.

18. You are at liberty to declare the rough state of the Poll at your Polling-place if you think fit, at the close of the registration.

19. You will have the goodness to mark with your initials the several Papers now supplied to you, and return the same to me with the Abstract and Ballot-papers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

*The Deputy Returning Officers, Launceston
and Western Railway Act.*

ENCLOSURE No. 7.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICERS.

(Copy.)

CIRCULAR.

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 24th October, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to apply to you to have the goodness to furnish me with three (3) copies of the Polling List used in the Municipal Elections for Councillors of the Rural Municipality of Longford, [Westbury, Deloraine], for my use in preparing the Polling List of Landholders under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," Section 119.

If there is any charge for these documents, perhaps you will have the goodness to send me a memorandum of the amount, to be charged against the expenses of taking the Poll as required by law.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed)

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,
Returning Officer under Launceston and Western Railway Act.

*The Worshipful the Wardens of
Longford, Westbury, and Deloraine.*

(Copy.)

Deloraine, 30th October, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated October 24th, and to inform you that I have delayed replying thereto on account of the doubt cast upon the legality of your appointment, as Returning Officer for the Railway District, by the Governor, in a letter which he has caused to be written to

the Town Clerk of Launceston, in which His Excellency seems to disavow the participation required by "The Launceston and Western Railway Act" in your appointment as such Returning Officer.

I have no objection to inform you, however, that no Polling List has been yet prepared for the Election of Councillors in this Municipality for 1865. It will be prepared on the basis of the Valuation Roll for the Rural Municipality of Deloraine, 1865.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. ARCHER, *Warden.*

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq., Hobart Town.*

(Copy.)

CIRCULAR.

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 28th October, 1865.*

SIR,

BEING about to take the Poll of the landholders within the Railway District, under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," I am anxious to appoint Deputy Returning Officers at the several Polling-places named in the Schedule, whose public position would secure the confidence of the resident landholders.

I should be glad to know whether you would be willing to act in that capacity in Longford, [Westbury, Deloraine.]

I may state that I make this application to you with the full privity and concurrence of the Government.

I should be glad to be favoured with a reply at your early convenience.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed)

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,

Returning Officer under Launceston and Western Railway Act.

*The Worshipful the Wardens of
Longford, Westbury, and Deloraine.*

(Copy.)

Council Chamber, 31st October, 1865.

SIR,

IN answer to yours of the 28th instant, I beg to state that I am willing to accept the appointment of Deputy Returning Officer for Longford under the provisions of "The Launceston and Deloraine Railway Act."

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed)

GEORGE GIBSON, *Warden, Longford Municipality.*

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq., Returning Officer.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 1st November, 1865.*

SIR,

I AM obliged by your information respecting the Municipal Polling Lists. I find that they would be of little use to me beyond saving, possibly, some trouble in the alphabetical arrangement of the names on the Polling List I am now preparing from the Valuation Rolls.

As regards my appointment, I have always been under the impression that a Government Notice in the *Gazette* was a sufficient notice of matters of that kind, of which Magistrates and official persons were bound to take cognizance.

My appointment is notified under the hand of a Minister of the Crown, "by His Excellency's Command," as having been made by "the Governor in Council under the provisions of the Launceston and Western Railway Act."

I take the liberty of observing that there was a stronger probability that such a notification stated correctly what it purported to announce officially, than that His Excellency would disavow the act of his Ministers, or those Ministers contravene the express provisions of an Act of Parliament.

You have, probably, by this time had an opportunity of judging how far you have been misled by an advertisement bearing the signature of the Mayor of Launceston, which I can have no hesitation in saying—with a copy of the Private Secretary's letter before me—completely, and I fear intentionally, misrepresents the plain meaning of His Excellency's communication to the Town Clerk.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,

Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.

*The Hon. WILLIAM ARCHER, Esq., J.P.,
Warden of Deloraine.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 3rd November, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter intimating to me your willingness to accept the appointment of Deputy Returning Officer for Longford, under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act."

I will forward you in a few days your appointment in writing as required by law, together with instructions, declarations, and other necessary papers for taking the Poll in your District.

I beg to thank you for your alacrity in consenting to share with me the responsibility of the important commission with which I am honoured by the Governor in Council.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,

Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.

GEORGE GIBSON, Esq., Warden of Longford.

(Copy.)

Westbury, 31st October, 1865.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 28th instant, (No. 8), asking me to act as Deputy Returning Officer for the District of Westbury, under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," I beg leave to say that I have no objection to act, provided that it does not interfere with the Municipal Election of Councillors here, which is to take place on the second Friday in December, the 8th; Friday, the 1st, being the last day of Nomination. So that neither of these days must be interfered with.

And as so much depends upon the efficiency of the Poll Clerk, I should be glad to have the assistance of the Council Clerk here, Mr. Belstead, who has consented to act with me upon your appointment under the 115th Section.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN PEYTON JONES.

*R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, Esq., Returning Officer
Railway District, &c., Hobart Town.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 6th November, 1865.*

SIR,

IT affords me much pleasure to learn your willingness to act as my Deputy at Westbury at the ensuing Poll of the Landholders of the Launceston and Western Railway District.

I have fixed the day for taking the Poll for the 18th December, which I trust will not interfere with your Municipal arrangements.

As regards a Poll Clerk for Westbury, I shall be very happy to name the gentleman you have indicated. My sole object in applying to the Wardens of Municipalities is to place the duty in the hands of those who already enjoy public official confidence, and I cannot doubt that Mr. Belstead will perform his share of the work to your satisfaction and to mine.

I am able to offer Deputies a remuneration of £3 3s. a day while actually engaged in taking the Poll, and such travelling allowance as may be necessary to cover the expense of delivering to me personally in

Launceston the signed Polling List, Ballot-papers, and Abstract of the Poll. But the latter duty may be performed by the Poll Clerks, to whom I can offer £2 2s. a day while actually taking the Poll.

I am not able to allow of the delivery of the Documents just named personally to me in Launceston, at the close of the Poll, to be entrusted to any other person than the Poll Clerk, in case the Deputy is unable or unwilling to deliver them himself.

I shall do myself the honour to communicate with you as to other details on a future occasion.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

J. P. JONES, *Esq., J.P., Warden of Westbury.*

(Copy.)

Cheshunt, Deloraine, 31st October, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant.

Since I last wrote to you I have satisfied myself as to the validity of your appointment as Returning Officer for the Railway District, and I shall be ready to give you all the information and assistance in my power for the carrying out "The Launceston and Western Railway Act" as far as respects your duties.

As regards your enquiry whether I am willing to act as Deputy Returning Officer at Deloraine, I have no hesitation in expressing my willingness to do so.

If you will forward to me a copy of the Valuation Roll for Deloraine, I can have the names of all Voters at the next Election of Councillors ticked off on it; but that can be as readily done in your own office.

Information as to the Rolls of Ratepayers in the Chundleigh and Upper Meander Road Districts, of both of which I am Chairman, has been already given to the Colonial Secretary.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) W. ARCHER.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq., Returning Officer.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 3rd November, 1865.*

SIR,

It affords me much gratification to receive an intimation of your willingness to act as Deputy Returning Officer at Deloraine.

I will forward you by another opportunity your appointment in writing as required by law, together with instructions as to the precise mode of taking the Poll, and a Declaration upon honour to be subscribed by Deputy Returning Officers before entering on their duties.

I thank you for your offer of assistance. I have made considerable progress with the compilation of the Polling List, and when it is in a sufficiently forward state in the printer's hands, I shall give notice of my intention to attend personally at each Polling Place, to revise the List on the spot, and hear claims and objections, &c.

You will see by the *Gazette* that the Poll will be taken on the 18th day of December.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,
Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.

*The Honorable WILLIAM ARCHER, Esq., J.P.,
Warden of Deloraine.*

(Copy.)

Perth, 30th October, 1865.

SIR,

If you should require a Deputy Returning Officer for the Township of Perth, I beg to acquaint you that I am willing to undertake the office.

My thorough knowledge of the inhabitants, as well as my business habits, render me peculiarly fitted in reference to the above, for either Perth, Evandale, or Longford. I should prefer Perth, as I am at present a resident there.

I can refer you to the Colonial Treasurer, J. H. Wedge, Esq., Leighlands, or indeed to any person on this side of the Island.

I beg to remain,

Yours truly,

(Signed) LOUIS WOOD.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq., Hobart Town.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 4th November, 1865.*

SIR,

AFTER reference, as you suggest in your letter of the 30th ultimo, to the Hon. Mr. Wedge, it will afford me much pleasure to name you Deputy Returning Officer for Perth, at the ensuing Poll of the Landholders of the Railway District.

On another occasion I will forward you your appointment in writing as required by law, together with instructions, and a Declaration to be taken by Deputy Returning Officers before entering on their duties.

I am enabled to offer you a remuneration of £3 3s. a day, while actually engaged in taking the Poll, and such travelling allowance as may be necessary to cover the expense of delivering to me personally in Launceston the signed Poll List, Ballot-papers, and Abstract of the Poll.

I shall be in Perth before the close of this month, when I shall have an opportunity of personal conference with you on the arrangements necessary for taking the Poll in that District.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

LOUIS WOOD, *Esq., Perth.*

(Copy.)

Perth, 8th November, 1865.

SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 4th instant, and knowing that Mr. Wedge will feel satisfied that I will go through the duty required of me in a satisfactory manner, I suppose I may conclude the matter in its first stage as a thing settled.

I would wish to be apprised beforehand of the day that you will visit Perth, that I may not be absent on the occasion, and will feel much pleasure in giving you the benefit of my local experience.

I may advise you that there is not any public building suitable for the purpose, and that the Elections are held at Mr. Russell's Hotel.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) LOUIS WOOD.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq., Hobart Town.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 6th November, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enquire whether you would be willing to accept the position of Deputy Returning Officer at Evandale, at the ensuing Poll of the Landholders of the Launceston and Western Railway District?

I am anxious to secure the services of gentlemen of local position and status whose discharge of the duties in question would command public confidence.

As the Chairman of the Evandale Road Trust, and the probable first Warden of that Municipality, you would seem to be peculiarly qualified for this particular office.

It would afford me, and I may add the Government, much satisfaction to find you willing to act in the capacity I have indicated.

I have the honor, &c.,
(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,
Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.
JOHN RALSTON, *Esq., J.P., Evandale.*

(Copy.)

Logan, 8th November, 1865.

SIR,

I AM favoured with your Letter of the 6th instant, requesting me to accept the position of Deputy Returning Officer at Evandale, at the ensuing Poll to be taken of the Landholders of the Launceston and Western Railway District.

In reply I have the honor to inform you that, although not the Chairman of the Evandale Road Trust, nor, that I am aware of, destined to be first Warden of the Municipality of this District, I consider it my duty to the Northern Districts not to refuse my services in the capacity indicated, and therefore accede to your request.

I have the honor, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN RALSTON.
R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 11th November, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 8th instant, intimating your willingness to give me the benefit of your assistance as Deputy Returning Officer at Evandale.

I beg to thank you for your acceptance of this share of the responsibility imposed upon me by my present office.

I have asked Mr. Lakeland to act as Poll Clerk at Evandale, an arrangement which will, I trust, prove satisfactory to you.

I have the honor, &c.,
(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,
Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.
JOHN RALSTON, *Esq., J.P., Logan Falls, Evandale.*

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 11th November, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enquire if you would be willing to act as Deputy Returning Officer, under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," at Carrick?

The Poll will be taken on the 18th of December next.

I am authorised to offer my Deputies a remuneration of £3 3s. a day while actually engaged in taking the Poll, and a travelling allowance in addition sufficient to cover the expense of delivering to me personally in Launceston the signed Poll List, Ballot Papers, and Abstract of the Poll, at the close of the Registration.

I should feel obliged by a reply at your early convenience.

I have the honor, &c.,
(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,
Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.
CHARLES ARTHUR, *Esq., Norley Cottage, Longford.*

(Copy.)

Longford, 14th November, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant, and beg to inform you that I willingly comply with your request to act as Deputy Returning Officer at Carrick, under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act."

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES ARTHUR.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*, *Returning Officer,*
Launceston and Western Railway District.

(Copy.)

Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 25th November, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 14th instant, intimating your willingness to act as Deputy Returning Officer at Carrick, under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act."

I beg to thank you for your ready acceptance of these responsible duties.

Herewith I have the honour to forward you 25 copies of the List of Landholders, which I request you to cause to be "published" within the Road District of Carrick, in the same way that notices are "published" under "The Electoral Act."

If you require the assistance of a Poll Clerk, I shall be happy to appoint in accordance with your nomination.

I will hand you an appointment in writing as required by law on a future occasion.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,
Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.

CHARLES ARTHUR, *Esq.*, *Norley Cottage, Longford.*

(Copy.)

CIRCULAR.

Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 25th November, 1865.

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honor to transmit to you 25 (twenty-five) copies of the List of Landholders entitled to vote at the Poll to be taken on the 18th proximo under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act."

I have the honor to request that you will cause the same to be published within the limits of the Municipality of Deloraine [Longford, Westbury, District of Carrick, District of Perth] in the same way that Electoral Lists are published under the provisions of "The Electoral Act."

May I also request that you will fill up the blank in the Notice prefixed to the List with the words "Municipal Council Chamber," if the same is available on the day named, or other suitable public place, acquainting me by letter, addressed to me in Launceston, with the arrangements you have made?

I trust by this means that every necessary publicity will be given to the List of Landholders in the District.

I should be glad to learn from you whether you wish the Council Clerk of your Municipality to be named a Poll Clerk at Deloraine [Longford], and whether that Officer is willing to act in that capacity on the 18th proximo.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,
Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.

The Honorable WM. ARCHER, J.P., Warden of Deloraine;
The Wardens of Longford and Westbury;
CHARLES ARTHUR, Esquire; and
LOUIS WOOD, Esquire.

(Copy.)

Longford, 28th November, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, forwarding me 25 copies of the List of Landholders for the ensuing Poll.

These I have caused to be published in the Road District of Carrick.

I deem it necessary to be allowed the assistance of a Poll Clerk in taking the Poll at Carrick. I beg to name my son, Mr. John Lake Arthur, for this duty.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES ARTHUR.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*

(Copy.)

Valleyfield, Longford, 28th November, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 25th instant, and also 25 copies of the List of Landholders for the ensuing Poll, which I have caused to be published according to your instructions. I shall be happy to meet you here on the 4th proximo.

The Council Clerk is willing to act in the capacity of Poll Clerk at Longford.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE GIBSON.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*

(Copy.)

Cheshunt, Deloraine, 29th November, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, addressed to me as Warden of Deloraine, together with 25 copies of the List of Landholders in the Launceston and Western Railway District.

I have directed the publication of the said List in the way in which Electoral Lists are published under the Electoral Act.

I have interlined the words "the Municipal Council Chamber" as the place at Deloraine for revising the said List. Should any objection be made by the Municipal Council, at their meeting on the 5th December, to your use of their Chamber, I will leave a note in the hands of the Council Clerk acquainting you with the same. It will be easy to direct persons, having claims as regards the said List, to such place as may be selected other than the Municipal Council Chamber.

I have applied to the Council Clerk to know if he is willing to act as Poll Clerk, which I hope he will be, and will inform you as soon as I receive his reply.

It appears to me that these duties which I am now performing should be discharged by me, not as Warden of Deloraine, but as Deputy Returning Officer for the Launceston and Western Railway District; and I have the honor to remind you that I have not yet received my appointment as such Deputy Returning Officer "in writing."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. ARCHER, *Warden.*

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq., Returning Officer*
Launceston and Western Railway District.

(Copy.)

Cheshunt, 5th December, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have laid my offer to you of the use of the Municipal Council Chamber at Deloraine on the 18th instant before the Municipal Council by letter, being unable through illness to attend the Council Meeting; and that I have requested Mr. Thompson, the Council Clerk, to intimate to you the decision of the Council, and, if necessary, to secure a convenient room for your use at Deloraine.

I have to inform you that the Council Clerk, Mr. Henry Scott Thompson, has expressed to me his willingness to act as Poll Clerk at Deloraine on the 18th instant.

I presume that the two copies of the Deloraine portion of the List of Landholders were intended for me, though they were addressed to the Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway, Deloraine.

With reference to the "Declaration upon honour," which the Government have instructed you to require from Deputy Returning Officers, I presume that a similar Declaration will be required from yourself before entering on your duty as Returning Officer, in taking the Poll.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) W. ARCHER.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*,
Returning Officer, &c. Launceston.

(Copy.)

Municipal Council Chambers, Deloraine, 6th December, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that you will forward to me by bearer the two copies of the Deloraine portion of the List of Landholders (proof sheets) addressed to me, and opened and detained by you in error.

I have also the honor to forward you herewith your appointment in writing as Deputy Returning Officer, and of your Council Clerk as Poll Clerk for the ensuing Registration of Landholders.

I shall feel obliged by your signing and returning to me the enclosed "Declaration."

I signed and transmitted to the Colonial Secretary, on the 2nd instant, a similar Declaration, which has also been subscribed by the Deputy Returning Officers for Longford, Carrick, Westbury, and Perth.

I assume that arrangements have been made for taking the Poll on the 18th instant in the Municipal Council Chamber.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

The Hon. WILLIAM ARCHER, *Esq., J.P., Deputy*
Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Rail-
way District, Cheshunt.

(Copy.)

Cheshunt, 6th December, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of my appointment "in writing" as Deputy Returning Officer for Deloraine, and I return the Declaration subscribed by me. Having received the necessary authority to do so, I will take care that arrangements are made for taking the Poll on the 18th instant.

I conceived that you would bring with you to Deloraine such copies of the List of Landholders as you required. Therefore you may easily imagine how, with your name franking the packet, the error on my part arose. Let me hope that my detention of these copies has not caused you any inconvenience. I now enclose them.

It was my intention to attend, as a matter of course, to-day at Deloraine, in order to assist you in revising the List of Landholders; but I am still suffering so much from a severe cold that I fear to encounter the cold wind that is blowing to-day. If, however, it seems to you that I can give you any information I shall be ready and willing to do so.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) W. ARCHER, *Deputy Returning Officer*
for Railway District.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*, *Returning Officer, &c.*

(Copy.)

Deloraine, 18th December, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Registration of Voters in the Deloraine portion of the Railway District took place here to-day without any difficulty or obstruction. You will find some notes on the Polling List on which I marked off the names of Landholders who voted. There is only one invalid paper; but two or three others have, at first sight, the appearance of being invalid owing to the impression of the red pencil mark by the folding of the Ballot-paper.

Mr. Thompson, the Poll Clerk, has kindly undertaken to deliver to you the Polling Lists, &c., which I should have done myself but for pressing business, and the necessity of my being present to-morrow at Westbury, at the exhibition of the Western Agricultural Association, of which I am President.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) W. ARCHER, *Deputy Returning Officer for Launceston and Western Railway District.*

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq., Returning Officer, &c.*

(Copy.)

CIRCULAR.

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 28th December, 1865.*

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honor to forward to you the necessary Vouchers and authority for the payment of the expenses incurred in taking the Poll at ———, on the 18th instant, under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act."

On receiving from you these papers duly signed and receipted, I will transmit you a cheque for the amount named in the Vouchers.

I desire to avail myself of this opportunity to express to you my acknowledgments of the courteous assistance and valuable co-operation which I have experienced at your hands in the performance of my duty as Returning Officer for the Launceston and Western Railway District; as well as of the satisfactory conduct of the Poll at ——— under your supervision as my Deputy on the 18th instant; and of the promptitude and punctuality of your compliance with my instructions as to the minor details of the Registration, and the delivery to me, at the principal Polling-place, of the Ballot-papers, signed Polling-list, and Abstract of the Ballot.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

<p>To the Hon. WILLIAM ARCHER, <i>Esq., J.P.,</i> CHARLES ARTHUR, <i>Esq., J.P.,</i> GEORGE GIBSON, <i>Esq.,</i> JOHN PEYTON JONES, <i>Esq., J.P.,</i> JOHN RALSTON, <i>Esq., J.P.,</i> LOUIS WOOD, <i>Esq.,</i></p>	}	<p><i>Deputy Returning Officers Launceston & Western Railway District.</i></p>
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(Copy.)

CIRCULAR.

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 28th December, 1865.*

SIR,

HEREWITH I beg to return you the Polling List "upon which the signatures and registration were written" at the Poll taken on the 18th instant at (Carrick, Evandale, Perth), which requires your signature as Deputy Returning Officer, and which I am directed by the Launceston and Western Railway Act (Section 121) to transmit to the Governor in Council together with the Total Abstract of the Registration of Landholders of the Railway District.

May I request that you will attach your signature to the Polling List, and return it to me immediately.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*

<p>To CHARLES ARTHUR, <i>Esq., J.P.,</i> JOHN RALSTON, <i>Esq., J.P.,</i> LOUIS WOOD, <i>Esq.,</i></p>	}	<p><i>Deputy Returning Officers, Launceston & Western Railway District.</i></p>
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(Copy.)

Longford, 29th December, 1865.

SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date with its enclosures, and now return the same duly signed.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES ARTHUR.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq., Returning Officer.*

(Copy.)

Perth, 30th December, 1865.

MY DEAR MR. YATES.

I ENCLOSE you the Receipts and Polling List signed as directed.

As our correspondence in reference to the Railway Registration will soon now be brought to a close, I think it but just and honest that I, as one of the Deputy Returning Officers, should bear testimony to the efficient and courteous manner in which all matters connected with the Election have been conducted. In my own name, therefore, I beg to thank you for the courteous and explicit manner in which my duties were laid before me; and can only hope that, should such a contingency again arise, we may have a gentleman equally competent with yourself to conduct the Poll.

I remain,
My dear Sir,
Yours truly,

(Signed) LOUIS WOOD.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*

(Copy.)

Logan, 30th December, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant.

I regret having omitted to attach my signature to the signed Polling List, which I now beg to return.

No memorandum of the Company's Scrutineers was handed to me, except the one forwarded by yourself naming the parties you had appointed, and those who were to act on behalf of the Company.

I enclose the authority and voucher. Mr. Lakeland is entitled to the amount for forwarding Ballot-papers, &c., and he has included it in his claim.

I remain,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) JOHN RALSTON.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*, *Hobart Town.*

(Copy.)

Longford, 4th January, 1866.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter enclosing cheques for my son and myself for expenses incurred as Poll Clerk and Deputy Returning Officer under the Launceston and Western Railway Act, and to thank you for your kind attention thereto.

I cannot pass by this opportunity afforded me of conveying to you my sense of the admirable arrangements adopted by you as a Returning Officer in carrying out the provisions of the Launceston and Western Railway Act.

Your impartiality was manifest to every one in deciding the claims of Electors when made before you.

I beg also to express my thanks for your uniform courteous manner towards myself as your Deputy at Carrick, both personally and in our correspondence.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES ARTHUR.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*, *Returning Officer*
Launceston and Western Railway District.

(Copy.)

Council Chambers, Longford, 4th January, 1866.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward you the accounts received on the 2nd instant duly signed and receipted.

I also beg to thank you for the way in which you have expressed your satisfaction at my conduct as Deputy Returning Officer at Longford.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE GIBSON.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*, *Returning Officer.*

(Copy.)

Cheshunt, Deloraine, 6th January, 1866.

SIR,

I RETURN to you herewith the claims, receipts, &c. respecting the amounts payable to Mr. Thompson and myself as Poll Clerk and Deputy Returning Officer at the Registration of Landholders of the Railway District; and I take this opportunity of congratulating you on the completeness of your arrangements as Returning Officer, and of thanking you for the invariable courtesy of your communications as regards myself.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) W. ARCHER.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*

(Copy.)

Perth, 7th January, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,

MR. ———, one of the Scrutineers appointed by the Returning Officer during the late Railway Election, has applied to me to enquire from you if he is not entitled to his day's fee during the time he was acting at Perth, and which fee he rates at Two guineas.

As requested I put the question to you, and you can either write to him or myself on the subject.

I remain,

Yours truly,

LOUIS WOOD.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 12th January, 1866.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE no authority to pay Scrutineers any fee.

It was perfectly optional with any gentleman named by me to decline to act, and one gentleman at Westbury or Deloraine did decline; and so did Mr. ———. I have his note.

My Scrutineers were named on the suggestion of gentlemen in Launceston, to whom I clearly explained that I had no authority to offer any fee. They watched the Poll in the interest of the anti-reguarantee party: and, as the expenses of the Poll are thrown by law on the Railway Company, it is obviously impossible to charge the Railway funds with the cost of services rendered in opposition to the Railway.

I am sure Mr. ——— will see the force of this reasoning. I am very grateful for the assistance rendered to me and to my Deputies by my Scrutineers. But they acted on behalf of their own interests as freeholders, and I am not authorised to allow them any fee out of the Railway funds.

I enclose you a cheque for the expenses at Perth. Please pay Russell.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES.

LOUIS WOOD, *Esq.*CORRESPONDENCE WITH ADYE DOUGLAS, *Esq.*

(Copy.)

Launceston, 7th November, 1865.

SIR,

As it is desirable that the Polling List should be as perfect as possible, I would suggest to you the propriety of submitting the draft to me or some other party here well acquainted with the several Districts, and having opportunities of ascertaining all the facts as to identity and otherwise.

It was my intention to have written to the Colonial Secretary hereon, but, as you can show my communication if you think it desirable, I shall not write him unless you desire it.

You will understand the purport of this letter is not to interfere with you, but only to assist in making the Polling List as perfect as possible.

If you consider it undesirable or unnecessary for me to give what assistance I can, I shall be satisfied.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) ADYE DOUGLAS.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*, *Hobart Town.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 8th November, 1865.*

SIR,

I AM naturally anxious to make the Polling List as perfect as possible, and shall be glad of assistance from any quarter.

It would scarcely be practicable to submit the draft Polling List to any party, as a portion of it is already in the printer's hands.

But there are points on which your local experience would, no doubt, materially assist me; and, under the circumstance of your present suggestion, I can have no hesitation in naming them to you.

1st. As to identity, or duplicate Names.

2nd. As to the Names of Executors and Trustees.

I am given to understand that the Promoters of the Launceston and Western Railway have already compiled a complete List of the Freeholders within the Railway District. It is, therefore, unnecessary for me to send you a list of the duplicate names; but it would be a material assistance to me to learn from you what names in this class represent the same individual, and where two or more individuals are represented by the same name.

As regards Trustees and Executors: here again you could afford valuable assistance, by supplying me in detail with the names of the persons, in each case, acting in those capacities. I may find it necessary to deal with some of them as "Joint Tenants;" and it is on that ground specially necessary to learn their names, which are not shown by the Valuation Rolls.

There are two other points on which, I imagine, it is peculiarly in your power to assist me in compiling the Polling List as perfectly as possible.

(a.) There are no Trustees for the Road District of Breadalbane.

(b.) The Road District of Evandale is only in part included within the Railway District.

I should be thankful to obtain from you a List of the Freeholders of £10 and upwards resident within the Road Trust District of Breadalbane, and of Evandale as included in the Railway District.

I enclose you Valuation Rolls for the Districts of Launceston and Morven.

I should feel obliged by receiving them again from you with the names of the Breadalbane and Evandale Railway Electors marked off on them with the letters B and E respectively.

I presume you have a Plan of the Evandale District as described in the Schedule to the Act. If not I would send you a tracing of it.

I assume that you have addressed me on this occasion in the interest of the "Launceston and Western Railway Company, Limited." In that case it is, perhaps, unnecessary for me to state that I am authorised to pay any reasonable charges for any extra Returns, &c., supplied by Road Trusts or Municipalities, or for other services rendered to me in the performance of my duties.

Thanking you for your offers of assistance,

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,

Returning Officer under Launceston and Western Railway Act.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Esq.*, *M.H.A.*,
Launceston.

P.S.—I may state that the Breadalbane and Evandale portion of the List of Freeholders is required *immediately*. I am expecting information on this point from three independent sources, but should be thankful for such information as you can render. The publication of my instructions has acquainted you with my intention to revise the List on the spot in each Polling District.

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES.

(Copy.)

Launceston, 11th November, 1865.

SIR,

I WAS under the impression that you would complete your draft List before printing—hence my offer to assist you.

In making the offer, I did so individually without reference in any way to the Railway Promoters. I considered that you would, in the first instance, have made out a complete Polling List for the Railway District, and then made Division Lists for the several Deputy Returning Officers, assigning to each Voter the place of polling nearest to his residence. By this means much inconvenience would have been avoided.

I have returned you the Lists furnished me, considering that I could give you no assistance therein.

I shall be very glad to furnish any information I can so soon as your printing of the Polling List is complete; and, if you forward me a copy, I will compare it with the copy of the Promoters, and endeavour to make it as perfect as possible.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) ADYE DOUGLAS.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, Esq., Hobart Town.

(Copy.)

Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 15th November, 1865.

SIR,

I AM in receipt of your note of the 11th instant.

I regret that, after your voluntary offer of assistance, you have found yourself unable to favour me with the information indicated in my letter of the 8th instant.

I believe I have taken such measures for the preparation of the Polling List as will sufficiently fulfil the intentions of the Legislature in its amendment of the Railway Bill on that point; and that without putting the Launceston and Western Railway Company, Limited, to the unnecessary expense incidental to the adoption of the course of procedure you have suggested.

The List of Landholders will be printed shortly, when copies of it will be obtainable from myself, or from the Clerk of the Peace, Launceston, and at the several Polling Places named in the Schedule to the Act, at One Shilling each copy.

I shall take steps to cause its sufficient publication in the Railway District, after which I shall attend at each Polling Place and revise it in open Court.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,

Returning Officer, Launceston & Western Railway District.

ADYE DOUGLAS, Esq., M.H.A.,
Launceston.

(Copy.)

Launceston, 16th November, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE duly received yours of the 15th instant.

I much regret that I am unable to assist you in the Polling Lists. Nevertheless, I think that so soon as you publish I shall be able to furnish you with material to make them complete. Will you therefore forward me a copy as soon as you publish, and I will at once revise it with a List made up by the Promoters and from persons having a full knowledge of the several Districts?

We can have but one object in view, and that is to render the Lists as perfect as possible.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) ADYE DOUGLAS.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, Esq., Returning Officer,
Railway District, Hobart Town.

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 20th November, 1865.*

SIR,

REFERRING to our recent correspondence on the subject of the preparation of a complete Polling List of the Landholders of the Launceston and Western Railway District, and to your expressed anxiety to further our common object,—namely, the “rendering the Lists as complete as possible,”—I beg to suggest that you should furnish me with a sight of the Promoters’ List, while the sheets of the Polling List I am preparing are passing through the press.

Some inadvertent errors and omissions might be detected and corrected by this means, and some considerable expense saved to the Launceston and Western Railway Company, (Limited.)

My sole object is to compile a Polling List which shall afford every qualified landholder in the District an opportunity of registering his vote on the 18th proximo; and I am sure I may count, on that point, on the assistance and co-operation of the Promoters.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Returning Officer.*ADYE DOUGLAS, *Esq., M.H.A., Launceston.*

(Copy.)

Launceston, 22nd November, 1865.

SIR,

I WILL forward you the List. The person copying it has been unwell, otherwise I should have been in a position to have sent it at once; but by the end of the week I am promised that it shall be ready for you.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) ADYE DOUGLAS.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq., Hobart Town.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 25th November, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward you 50 (fifty copies) of the List of Landholders qualified to vote at the Poll to be taken on the 18th proximo, under the provisions of “The Launceston and Western Railway Act.”

I have the honor to request that you will allow the List to be published within the limits of the Municipality of Launceston, in the same way that Electoral Lists are published under the provisions of “The Electoral Act,” and that you will distribute other copies of the List at your discretion, so as to ensure for it the greatest publicity possible.

I feel assured that I need offer no apology to the Mayor of Launceston for thus enlisting the assistance of the Municipal authorities in giving effect to an Act of the Legislature so deeply interesting to the Burgesses as “The Launceston and Western Railway Act.”

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,

*Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.**To the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston.*

(Copy.)

(Received 26th November, 1865.)

Launceston, 24th November, 1865.

SIR,

I FORWARD you carefully revised List of Voters for the Railway District. From this may readily be made up the several Polling Lists, as the Polling-places are set forth on the same.

You will observe that Females are placed in this List, as there appears nothing in the Act to prevent their polling.

There will no doubt be some few corrections to be made in the joint votings, but no List will be altogether perfect.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) ADYE DOUGLAS.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*,
Returning Officer, &c. Hobart Town.

(Copy.)

Launceston, 27th November, 1865.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your Lists, and have caused them to be published as requested, and have also given some away.

I find that the List requires great revision, and would suggest that you should at your earliest convenience come over and go through the Poll List with me, so as to make many amendments which would otherwise have to be made in the Revision Court. You have also made out your Polling List before making out your General List, thereby creating much difficulty in finding out particular names; also the same name occurs on two or more Lists. These things should be corrected before holding your Revision Court.

Then, the residences: for instance, Grubb, who lives in Launceston, must go to Deloraine, and H. Douglas, who lives 8 miles beyond Deloraine, must come to Launceston to vote.

I shall be glad to know when you will be in Launceston.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) ADYE DOUGLAS.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*,
Returning Officer, &c., Hobart Town.

(Copy.)

*Office of Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District,
Hobart Town, 28th November, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, and the copy of your List.

I hope to be in Launceston on Wednesday, when I shall gladly avail myself of your obliging offers of further assistance.

I have also to thank you for publishing the List of Landholders in accordance with my request.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed)

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES,
Returning Officer, Launceston and Western Railway District.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Esq., M.H.A.*,
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston.

ENCLOSURE No. 9.

(Cornwall Chronicle, 20 December, 1865.)

DECLARATION OF POLL.

ROBERT THOMAS COGHLAN-YATES, *Esq.*, the Returning Officer, made the Official Declaration of the Poll at noon yesterday, at the Court House in Patterson-street. Several hundred persons were present.

The Returning Officer, who addressed the assemblage from the Bench of the Supreme Court, said:—

Gentlemen, Landholders of the Launceston and Western Railway District, I am now in a position to announce to you officially the result of the Registration which took place yesterday, pursuant to the provisions of the *Launceston and Western Railway Act*. I am not required by law to make this declaration; but I have determined upon this course in order to satisfy your natural anxiety to be made acquainted with an authentic account of the result of yesterday's Poll. (Hear hear.) The number of votes recorded in favour of the construction of the Railway, upon the principles sanctioned by the Act of last Session, is 2259. The number of votes against the construction of the Railway on these principles is 545. There were 9 invalid papers, representing 18 votes. The number of Landholders who voted for the Railway is 901: and of those who voted against its construction on the re-guarantee principle, 163. The total number of Landholders who came to the Poll was 1073. Such is the abstract of the Poll,

which it is my duty to transmit to the Governor in Council. You will observe that this result gives a majority in favour of the construction of the Railway considerably larger than the two-thirds required by law. It affords me much gratification to be able to bear testimony, so far as my observation has gone during the course of yesterday's proceedings, to the admirably orderly and intelligent manner in which the Landholders exercised their franchises under the Railway Act. It is a remarkable and gratifying fact that, throughout the whole Railway District, out of so large a number of persons voting as 1073, only 9 invalid papers were found in the ballot boxes at the close of the Poll. I may be allowed to accept this result as a proof that the Landowners were thoroughly alive to the nature of the proceedings, and that every provision had been made for giving effect to the free expression of their real opinions. In my position as Returning Officer I have always maintained a position of profound neutrality on the question of the Railway; but I may be permitted now to congratulate you on a result which will I trust put a period, at once and for ever, to those bitter and acrimonious feelings (hear hear) which have too long, unhappily, divided the Northern community into hostile sections: harmony is now, let us hope, once more restored. (Cheers.) Allow me at the same time to assure you, in all sincerity, of my earnest and anxious hope that, now that the Railway is at last placed within your reach, it may prove productive to this part of the Colony of all those material benefits which have always been predicted as the result of its achievement, by those who have for so many years been its enthusiastic advocates and supporters. I must also take this occasion to express my satisfaction at the result of the adoption of the plan of open revision of the Polling List, in the several divisions of the Railway District. I feel assured that it has been productive of the most satisfactory result. I do not believe that there is a single Landholder in the Railway District who could now stand forward and say that he had been deprived of his franchise under the Railway Act by any inaccuracy in the Polling List, or any fault of the Returning Officer. (Cheers.) I must also express my acknowledgments of the assistance I have received in the revision of the Polling List from His Worship the Mayor of this town and other gentlemen on the one side, and from Messrs. James Scott and J. Mitchell on the other,—who, in the exercise of their legitimate right as Landholders, took the opposite side of the re-guarantee question. I am also much indebted for the satisfactory conduct of this important election to the able assistance I have received from my Deputies throughout the Railway District, and from my own and the Company's Scrutineers. Gentlemen, it only remains for me to state that I shall report the result of the Poll to the Governor in Council, in accordance with the statement I have now officially delivered to you. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Alderman Sheridan said he thought the whole management of the proceeding from first to last must have satisfied every one that the Returning Officer had performed his duty efficiently, satisfactorily, and impartially; and he should therefore propose a vote of thanks to that gentleman for his conduct in the election.

Mr. John Mitchell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously by acclamation.

The Returning Officer, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said he was deeply gratified at this indication of their approval and satisfaction. He accepted that vote as the rational and intelligent judgment of the Landholders of the Railway District; and as a popular ratification of the selection of himself, by the Governor in Council, for an office of peculiar delicacy and no inconsiderable responsibility—his execution of which, he believed they now admitted, had fully justified the confidence reposed in his integrity and capacity by Her Majesty's Government. (Cheers.) He would now ask them to conclude the proceedings, as became Englishmen, with three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen.

Three cheers were then heartily given for the Queen, and the large assembly dispersed.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE RETURNING OFFICER.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 10th January, 1866.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt by the Governor in Council of your Report under date the 30th ultimo, transmitting the result of the Poll of Landholders of the Railway District, as taken on the 18th December last, under the provisions of "The Launceston and Western Railway Act," together with the Eleven Enclosures enumerated by you.

It affords me much pleasure to convey to you the intimation of the approval of the Government of the satisfactory and efficient manner in which you have conducted and concluded your duties as Returning Officer for the Launceston and Western Railway District.

Your Report and the Correspondence attached to it, coupled with information which has reached me from independent sources, combine to satisfy the Government that your general management of that responsible office, where so much was necessarily left to your own judgment and discretion, has fully justified the confidence reposed by His Excellency's Advisers in your ability and intelligence.

The Government has also observed with satisfaction that your impartial discharge of your public duties has conciliated the confidence and respect of the Landholders of the Launceston and Western Railway District; while the gentlemen who acted as your Deputies bear testimony to the courtesy of your official relations with themselves, and to the completeness of your arrangements and dispositions for the general conduct of the Registration.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES WHYTE.

R. T. COGHLAN-YATES, Esq., 25, Davey-street, Hobart Town.