

(No. 57.)



1877.

SESSION IV.

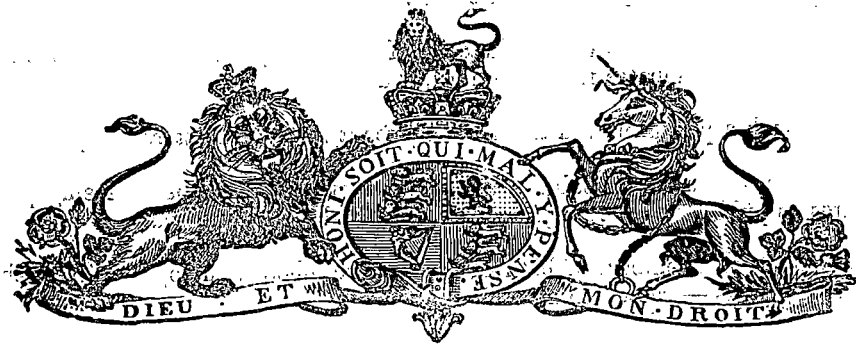
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

HANSARD.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES, &c.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, November 27, 1877, and ordered
by the House to be printed.



Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 7th December, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that you will favour me with any information in your power upon the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in your Colony.

Is it carried out through the agency of an authorised staff paid from public funds, and printed at Government expense? If so, at what cost to the Colony? Is the plan working satisfactorily, and are the Members of the Legislature supplied with copies of the debates free of charge?

Are the reporters' notes submitted to the several speakers for correction before being printed off, and are the reports of debates so taken recognised by the Legislature as records?

If the reporting is conducted by the staff of the colonial Press, are the reports or the report of any special paper admitted as evidence of what was spoken by any Member?

Any other particulars you could afford me upon the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in your Colony would be much esteemed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

Similar to New South Wales.
Similar to Queensland.
Similar to South Australia.
Similar to New Zealand.

New South Wales,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 11th December, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant for information on the subject of Parliamentary Reporting.

I have, &c.

For the Colonial Secretary,
(Signed) HENRY HALLORAN.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary of Tasmania,
Hobart Town.

Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 22nd December, 1876.

SIR,

IN reply to the inquiries contained in your letter of the 7th instant, W. 954, I have the honor to supply the following information on the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in this Colony.

The speeches of Honorable Members in both Houses of Parliament are reported by an authorised staff paid from the public funds, and the printing is done at the Government Printing Office, also at the public charge.

The expense of the reporting staff, consisting of three persons, is £1550 per annum, and the annual cost of the printing is estimated at the same amount, making a yearly expenditure for the publication of Three thousand one hundred Pounds.

As to whether the plan works satisfactorily, I should say that so far as it is meant to secure accuracy as a record of the debates in Parliament, it does.

The value of such a provision and the necessity for it must be matters of opinion.

The reporters' notes are not submitted to the several speakers before being printed, and the reports of debates as published are recognised by the Legislature as records.

I have to add that Members of both Houses are supplied with copies of the debates,—which are issued in weekly parts,—free of charge.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MACPHERSON.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

*Queensland,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 23rd December, 1876.*

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of 7th December instant, in which information is sought on the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in this Colony, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a copy of a Memorandum furnished by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly relating to most of the particulars referred to in your letter.

A statement of the comparative cost of the publication of the daily and weekly *Hansard* will be supplied on the return of the Government Printer, who is at present absent from the Colony on leave.

Mr. Senior, the Principal Short-hand Writer, is about to proceed to your Colony shortly, and will, no doubt, be able to give you more particular information on the subject.

I have, &c.

For the Colonial Secretary,

(Signed) H. H. MASSIE.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

MEMORANDUM on letter dated 7th December, from Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town, *re* Queensland Parliamentary Reporting:

1. The debates published in Queensland *Hansard* are reported by an authorised staff, and are printed in pamphlet form at the Government Printing Office. Copies are supplied to Members of both Houses free of charge.

2. It is scarcely possible to say at what cost to the Colony *Hansard* is printed, but the reporting costs £1500 per annum.

3. The plan of a weekly *Hansard* has worked satisfactorily, but it has been determined to publish a daily *Hansard* during next session.

4. The speeches are not necessarily submitted to Members for revision. It is sometimes done as a matter of convenience and courtesy. *Hansard* is recognised by the Legislature as an official record.

5. Mr. Wm. Senior, the Principal Short-hand Writer, will leave for Hobart Town in the course of a few days, and will call on the Colonial Secretary with a view of affording any further information which may be desired.

LEWIS A. BERNAYS, *Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.*

*Legislative Assembly Office, Brisbane,
20th December, 1876.*

South Australia.
Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 23rd December, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, requesting information on the subject of Parliamentary Reporting, and to enclose a copy of the Agreement for the performance of that service in this Province. The document furnishes a general reply to the questions asked in your letter; but I may add that whilst the system, which has been in operation here since 1857, has worked satisfactorily, the question of the admissibility of the Reports as evidence has not arisen; and I understand Mr. Speaker to have ruled that anything recorded in *Hansard* is not binding upon the House, and cannot even be quoted in the House during the same Session.

I beg also to transmit—in separate parcel—a volume of the Reports of the Parliamentary Debates of the last Session.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY AYERS.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

DRAFT AGREEMENT, &c. FOR PRINTING "HANSARD."

MEMORANDUM of Agreement made and entered into this _____ day of _____ A.D. 1875, between the Honble. A.B. of Adelaide, in the Province of S. A., Chief Secretary of the said Province, and contracting as a public officer for and on behalf of the Government of the Province aforesaid of the one part, and C.D., E.F., and G.H., of Adelaide aforesaid, Newspaper proprietors, of the other part.

WHEREAS in pursuance of calls for Tenders, by advertisement, dated the 24th December, 1874, duly published in the *South Australian Government Gazette*, the said C.D., E.F., and G.H., (hereinafter styled the Contractors) 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 from the first day of the present Session of Parliament, which tender has been accepted by the Government aforesaid: Now, therefore, in consideration of receiving from the Treasurer for the time being of the said Province the sums of money, at the times and in manner hereinafter mentioned, they, the said Contractors, do hereby agree, with all reasonable despatch, forthwith and continuously, for a term of Three years, commencing on the 6th day of May last past, or for so long as this Agreement shall be in force, to prepare, edit, print, and publish, either in brier, emerald, minion, or nonpareil type, daily in the *South Australian Register* 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 Contractors in Adelaide aforesaid by noon of 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 referee in cases where any difference shall arise between the said Contractors 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 Contractors shall, within one month from the close of each Parliamentary Session, deliver at the office of the Chief Secretary for the time being of the said Province 250 copies of the Report of such Session, in large octavo, printed either in brier, 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 A.B., 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 Contractors, in consideration of their supplying the work, labour, and materials aforesaid, the sum of £5 per day, when either House sits beyond four hours, for each day's Report and publication of the proceedings in Parliament; but should either House of the said Parliament continue in sittings beyond the space of four hours, then the said Chief Secretary agrees to pay to the said Contractors, in addition to the said sum of £5, a further sum of £1 for each hour or portion of an hour, such period to be computed from the expiration of the said four 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 sit to be decided by the time of the clock used in each House respectively. And a further sum of £250 so soon as 250 copies of such Reports, printed and bound as aforesaid, shall have been delivered as aforesaid, within one month after the close of each Session, such sums to be respectively payable at the Colonial 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 Government, 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, to be addressed to the said Contractors or either of them, or left at his or their chief place of business in Adelaide aforesaid, 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 Government in consequence of such default: Provided always, that if the House of Assembly shall adopt a Resolution that the Reports of Parliamentary Debates under this Agreement shall be discontinued, it shall be competent for the said Government 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 said Parliament, by notice in writing as aforesaid, to absolutely determine this Agreement, and the same shall thenceforth be at an end. And it is lastly agreed and declared and made an express condition to this Contract that no Member of the said Parliament of the Province of South Australia is, now, or shall hereafter be, admitted to any share or part in this Contract, or to any benefit to arise therefrom. As witness, &c.

Witness to the signatures of, &c.

(Copy.)

B.

REPORTING AND PRINTING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 24th December, 1874.

SEALED Tenders will be received at this office until noon of Thursday, the 4th day of February next, for a publication of a report of the Debates and Proceedings of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly respectively, for a term of three years from the next meeting of Parliament, under conditions, copies of which can be obtained at this office.

(Signed) ARTHUR BLYTH, *Chief Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
4th January, 1877.*

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 7th of last month, asking for information on the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in New South Wales, I have the honor to inform you that there is no official report of the Parliamentary Debates in this Colony, the only reports of such debates being those made by the reporters of the colonial press, who are in no way under the control of the Parliament or of any of its officers.

2. The short-hand reporting in connection with the Parliamentary Departments here is confined to the reporting of evidence given by witnesses before Standing and Select Committees, and of answers to questions put to Ministers in the Houses. This work is done by two gentlemen permanently attached to the departments of the two Houses at salaries of £550 and £600; but in case of pressure, extra short-hand reporters, approved by the Standing Orders Committee, are employed, and receive two guineas for each attendance and one shilling a folio for transcribing notes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. STUART.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary of Tasmania,
Hobart Town.*

*New Zealand,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 27th December, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. W. 954, of the 7th instant, asking for information upon the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in this Colony.

In reply to the enquiries contained in your letter, I beg to inform you that Parliamentary Reporting in New Zealand is performed by an authorised staff paid out of public funds, and consisting of a Chief Reporter at a salary of £500 a year, and six Reporters at £250 a year each.

The Reports are printed at the Government Printing Office at a cost, for printing, binding, paper, &c., averaging 17s. 6d. per page. The *Hansard* of last Session, which was however an unusually long one, made four volumes, each averaging 692 pages, bringing the expenditure for this item therefore to something over £2420.

The plan works satisfactorily.

Each Member of the Legislature is supplied with six copies of the bi-weekly pamphlet, and a bound set of volumes at the end of the Session gratis.

Proof slips of speeches are supplied to Members for correction, and have to be returned within a certain time or the reports are considered correct and printed off accordingly.

These reports of debates are recognised by both Houses as records of Members' speeches; but

the official journals are kept independently by the Clerks, and are published separately after each Session of Parliament. These, and not *Hansard*, are received as evidence in the Courts of Law.

Mr. W. Drake, a member of our Reporting staff, is now in Hobart Town, and would, no doubt, be happy to give the Government of Tasmania any information in his power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES C. BOWEN.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th January, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo, E.C. 76, 216, forwarding a copy of a Memorandum furnished by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly relating to the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in the Colony of Queensland, in compliance with my request of the 7th December last, for which I desire to return my thanks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Queensland.

Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th January, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, 76, 9671, supplying information on the subject of Parliamentary Reporting in the Colony of New South Wales, in compliance with my request of the 7th ultimo, for which I desire to return my thanks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,
New South Wales.

Similar to C. S., Victoria, South Australia, and New Zealand, dated 19th January.