

(No. 87.)



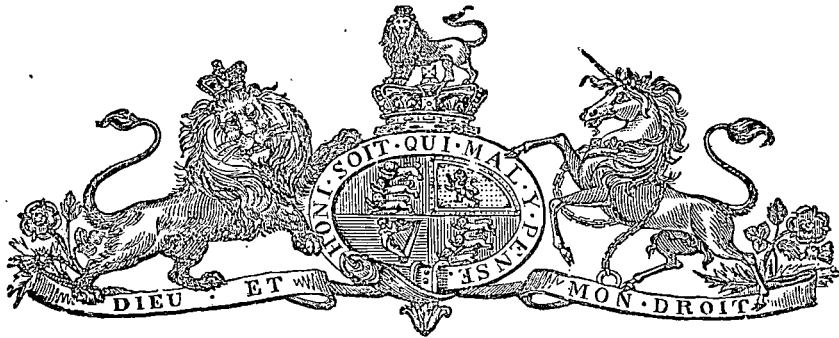
1864.

T A S M A N I A.

AID TO MUNICIPALITIES.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed,
23 August, 1864.



REPORT of the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 10th August, 1864, to report on the proper Mode of distributing the Vote in Aid of MUNICIPALITIES for 1865.

Elected by Ballot—

MEMBERS.

MR. DOUGLAS.
MR. COLONIAL TREASURER.
MR. LEWIS.
DR. SHARLAND.

MR. WALKER.
MR. HODGSON.
MR. MURRAY.

DAYS OF MEETING.

1. 16 August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Colonial Treasurer, Mr. Murray, Mr. Lewis, Dr. Sharland.
 2. 17 August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Colonial Treasurer, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Lewis, Dr. Sharland.
 3. 18 August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Colonial Treasurer, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Walker, Mr. Lewis, Dr. Sharland, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Murray.
 4. 19 August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Colonial Treasurer, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Murray, Dr. Sharland, Mr. Douglas.
 5. 23 August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Colonial Treasurer, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Douglas.
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WITNESSES EXAMINED.

1. The Honorable E. ABBOTT, Esquire, Warden of Clarence.
 2. A. GRAHAM, Esquire, Warden of Glamorgan.
 3. F. COTTON, Esquire, Treasurer of Glamorgan and Spring Bay.
 4. JOHN FORSTER, Esquire, Inspector of Police.
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R E P O R T .

The Select Committee appointed on the 10th August, 1864, to report upon the proper mode of distributing the Vote in aid of Municipalities for 1865, amounting to £13,462, beg to present the result of their labours.

1. In the Session of 1859, when the subject was first brought under the consideration of the Parliament by Mr. Allison, then Member for Campbell Town, it engaged the earnest attention of a Select Committee composed of eleven Members of the House of Assembly, of whom ten were elected by ballot, and the eleventh (the Attorney-General, now Sir Francis Smith) was afterwards added by the House.

2. On the Report of this Committee, whose labours extended over many days' deliberation, the amounts now granted in aid of the Police of the several Municipalities were fixed by Statute; and the period for which they were granted—namely, 5 years—will expire on the 31st December, 1864.

3. A marked improvement has since then taken place in the social and moral condition of Tasmania. Far less Police are required for the protection of the interests of all classes; serious crime is but little known; and alterations having been made in the boundaries of certain of the Districts, a corresponding alteration of the Grant in Aid has become necessary.

4. Your Committee have found it to be a most difficult matter to distribute the Vote impartially, with a special reference to the wants of each District, without exercising a wide discretion in its apportionment. They have become cognizant of the fact that the Grant in Aid has been so much in excess of the requirements of one Municipal District, as to induce the Council of that Municipality to decline to levy any Police Rate at all since it was established, in September, 1860; whilst in other cases the Rate levied has been nominal. There are exceptions, however, in which a much higher rate than Sixpence in the Pound according to the Valuation Roll is required for efficient Police protection.

5. They were favoured with a Scheme of Redistribution by a Warden of many years' experience; a scheme the simplicity, fairness, and economy of which at once attracted the attention of your Committee. This Scheme having been perused by the Senior Municipal Warden, by the Treasurer of the two oldest established Municipalities, and by the Inspector of Police, it is their recorded opinion, in evidence before the Committee, that it is as nearly perfect as possible.

It is as follows:—The Inspector of Police is required to certify to the sufficiency and efficiency of the Police of each District, as in England. To the expense of this it is proposed to add in aid of the Salaries of Officers the following sums:—

In aid of Warden's Salary, £100.

In aid of Council Clerk and Collector of Rates, £150.

For Superintendent of Police, £175.

For Miscellaneous Police Services, £100.

Thus will be seen the total expense of the Police of each District.

A Police Rate of Sixpence in the Pound being levied in aid of the expense as above, the Colonial Treasurer is required to pay the deficit.

6. Your Committee have, therefore, decided to recommend its adoption by your Honorable House, as applicable to the year 1865 for the eighteen established Municipalities; and they also recommend that the same principle be extended to Glenorchy (which commenced operations on the 1st ultimo), and to any other Districts which may take upon themselves local self-government in 1865.

7. The various documents which have assisted your Committee in arriving at their decision are annexed to this Report; and they would beg to remind your Honorable House, that, of the Seven Members of which your Committee is composed, Six are Members of Municipal Councils,—a fact which will probably authorise greater weight to be attached to their opinions on a matter on which it is obvious they must be well informed.

8. Your Committee have found it necessary to depart from a strict adherence to the Scheme laid before them by the Warden of Clarence in some instances, where the expense of the Police, owing to a variety of circumstances, requires a larger outlay; and these variations they submit for the consideration of your Honorable House.

CHARLES MEREDITH, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, 23rd August, 1864.

TABLE showing the Scheme of the Warden of Clarence.

Name of Municipality.	Valuation according to Roll of 1864.			Police Rate at 6d. in the Pound.			Aid at present granted by Statute.			Expense of Policemen, as per Inspector of Police's Estimates for 1865.			Provision for Salaries of Warden, Clerk and Collector, Superintendent of Police, and Miscellaneous.			Aid proposed by Clarence Warden Scheme.			Aid recommended for 1865 by the Select Committee.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bothwell	18,382	0	0	459	0	0	750	0	0	465	7	6	525	0	0	531	7	6	531	0	0
Brighton	14,315	0	0	357	0	0	380	0	0	348	5	0	525	0	0	516	5	0	516	0	0
Clarence	10,183	0	0	254	0	0	467	10	0	295	10	0	525	0	0	566	10	0	566	0	0
Deloraine	23,881	0	0	597	0	0	350	0	0	483	12	0	525	0	0	411	12	0	461	0	0
Fingal	24,096	0	0	602	0	0	1300	0	0	978	11	3	525	0	0	901	11	3	901	0	0
Glamorgan	9150	0	0	228	0	0	650	0	0	335	5	0	525	0	0	632	5	0	662	0	0
Green Ponds	9640	0	0	241	0	0	270	0	0	246	6	6	525	0	0	530	6	6	530	0	0
Hamilton.....	26,419	0	0	660	0	0	750	0	0	479	18	9	525	0	0	344	18	9	464	0	0
Longford.....	47,908	0	0	1197	0	0	250	0	0	830	14	6	525	0	0	158	14	6	336	0	0
New Norfolk.....	14,490	0	0	362	0	0	700	0	0	586	3	9	525	0	0	749	3	9	749	0	0
Oatlands	39,013	0	0	975	0	0	500	0	0	687	17	6	525	0	0	237	17	6	317	0	0
Richmond	16,823	0	0	420	0	0	882	10	0	545	19	7	525	0	0	650	19	7	732	0	0
Ross.....	15,747	0	0	393	0	0	145	0	0	291	10	0	525	0	0	423	10	0	423	0	0
Sorell	14,557	0	0	363	0	0	800	0	0	577	10	0	525	0	0	739	10	0	739	0	0
Spring Bay.....	4739	0	0	118	0	0	1200	0	0	438	13	9	525	0	0	845	13	9	845	0	0
Westbury	35,387	0	0	884	0	0	350	0	0	839	10	0	525	0	0	480	10	0	510	0	0
							9745	0	0							8720	15	1	9232	0	0
Hobart Town	110,000	0	0	2750	0	0	1537	0	0	3512	12	0	525	0	0	1287	12	0	2000	0	0
Launceston	44,000	0	0	1100	0	0	2180	0	0	2961	2	6	525	0	0	2386	0	0	2180	0	0
							13,462	0	0							12,394	7	0	13,462	0	0

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TABLE showing the Basis on which the Select Committee founded their Recommendation.

BOTHWELL.		
	£	
1864, Valuation Roll	18,382	
Rate of 6d. in the £	459	
		£ s. d.
Expense of the Police according to Inspector's Estimate for 1865, omitting Female Searcher, at £5		465 7 6
Towards the Salaries of Warden, £100		} 525 0 0
Council Clerk and Collector of Rates, £150		
Superintendent of Police, £175		
Miscellaneous, £100		
		990 7 6
Deduct		459 0 0
		<u>£531 7 6</u>
BRIGHTON.		
	£	
1864, Valuation Roll	14,315	
Rate of 6d. in the £	357	
		£ s. d.
Expense of Police		348 5 0
Warden, &c.		525 0 0
		<u>£873 5 0</u>
Less		357 0 0
		<u>£516 5 0</u>
CLARENCE.		
	£	
1864, Valuation Roll	10,183	
Rate of 6d. in the £	254	
		£ s. d.
Expense of Police		295 10 0
Warden, &c.		525 0 0
		<u>820 10 0</u>
Less		254 0 0
		<u>£566 10 0</u>
DELORAINÉ.		
	£	
1864, Valuation Roll	23,881	
Rate of 6d. in the £	597	
		£ s. d.
Expense of Police		483 12 0
Warden, &c.		525 0 0
		<u>1008 12 0</u>
Less		597 0 0
		<u>411 12 0</u>
Addition proposed by Select Committee		50 0 0
		<u>£461 12 0</u>
FINGAL.		
	£	
1864, Valuation Roll	24,096	
Rate of 6d. in the £	602	
		£ s. d.
Police		978 11 3
Warden, &c.		525 0 0
		<u>1503 11 3</u>
Less		602 0 0
		<u>£901 11 3</u>

GLAMORGAN.

	£		
1864, Valuation Roll	9150		
Rate of 6 <i>d.</i> in the £	228		
		£	s. d.
Expense of Police		360	5 0
Less £25 for reduction of Policeman.....		25	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Warden, &c.		385	5 0
		525	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		860	5 0
Less		228	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		632	5 0
Addition by Select Committee.....		30	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		662	5 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>

GREEN PONDS.

	£		
1864, Valuation Roll	9640		
Rate of 6 <i>d.</i> in the £	241		
		£	s. d.
Expense of Police		246	6 6
Warden, &c.		525	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		771	6 6
Less		241	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£530	6 6
		<hr/>	<hr/>

HAMILTON.

	£		
1864, Valuation Roll	26,419		
Rate of 6 <i>d.</i> in the £	660		
		£	s. d.
Expense of Police		479	18 9
Warden, &c.		525	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1004	18 9
Less		660	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		344	18 9
Added by Select Committee.....		120	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£464	18 9
		<hr/>	<hr/>

LONGFORD.

	£		
1864, Valuation Roll	47,908		
Rate of 6 <i>d.</i> in the £	1197		
		£	s. d.
Expense of Police		1082	0 0
Warden, &c.		525	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1607	0 0
Less		1197	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£410	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Awarded by the Select Committee		£336	0 0
		<hr/>	<hr/>

NEW NORFOLK.

	£	£	s.	d.
1864, Valuation Roll	14,490			
Rate of 6d. in the £	362			
Expense of Police		586	3	9
Warden, &c.		525	0	0
		<u>1111</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
Less		362	0	0
		<u>£749</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>

OATLANDS.

	£	£	s.	d.
1864, Valuation Roll	39,013			
Rate of 6d. in the £	975			
Expense of Police		687	17	6
Warden, &c.		525	0	0
		<u>1212</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>
Less		975	0	0
		<u>237</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>
Added by Select Committee		80	0	0
		<u>£317</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

RICHMOND.

	£	£	s.	d.
1864, Valuation Roll	16,823			
Rate of 6d. in the £	420			
Expense of Police		545	19	7
Warden, &c.		525	0	0
		<u>1070</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>7</u>
Less		420	0	0
		<u>650</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>7</u>
Added by Select Committee		82	0	0
		<u>£732</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

ROSS.

	£	£	s.	d.
1864, Valuation Roll	15,747			
Rate of 6d. in the £	393			
Expense of Police		216	10	0
Five Specials		75	0	0
		<u>291</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
Warden, &c.		525	0	0
		<u>816</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
Less		393	0	0
		<u>£423</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>

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SORELL.

	£		
1864, Valuation Roll	14,557		
Rate of 6 <i>d.</i> in the £	363		
		£	s. d.
Expense of Police		577	10 0
Warden, &c.		525	0 0
		1102	10 0
Less		363	0 0
		<u>£739</u>	<u>10 0</u>

SPRING BAY.

	£		
1864, Valuation Roll	4739		
Rate of 6 <i>d.</i> in the £	118		
		£	s. d.
Expense of Police		438	13 9
Warden, &c.		525	0 0
		963	13 9
Less		118	0 0
		<u>£845</u>	<u>13 9</u>

WESTBURY.

	£		
1864, Valuation Roll	35,387		
Rate of 6 <i>d.</i> in the £	884		
		£	s. d.
Expense of Police		839	10 0
Warden, &c.		525	0 0
		1364	10 0
Less		884	0 0
		<u>£480</u>	<u>10 0</u>
Added by Select Committee		30	0 0
		<u>£510</u>	<u>10 0</u>

EVIDENCE.

16 AUGUST, 1864.

EDWARD ABBOTT, *Esquire, called in and examined.*

By Chairman.—I am Warden of the Rural Municipality of Clarence, and have been so since its establishment.

I produce a Scheme for the distribution of the Government Aid to Rural Municipalities, which is as follows :—

I propose that each Rural Municipal District should assess itself for Police purposes at Sixpence in the Pound upon its valuation as shown in the Rolls. Then, that the Colonial Treasury should contribute £100 a year for a Warden's salary, £150 a year for a Council Clerk and Collector of Rates, £175 a year for a Superintendent of Police, and such a sum by way of Grant in Aid as will make up the amount payable to the Municipality equal to the expense of the Police, as shown in the several Estimates for 1864, *plus* the three Salaries before mentioned, and also *plus* £100 for Miscellaneous expenses.

Taking Clarence as an illustration. The Valuation Roll amounts to £18,183 per annum. At Sixpence in the Pound the Police Rate would be £254; while the Warden, Council Clerk, Superintendent of Police, Salaries, and Miscellaneous expenses would cost £525, and the Petty Police £300. So that the total expense would be £825, less £254. The Grant in Aid should therefore be £571.

At present the Aid voted by Parliament, in the Act 26 Vict. No. 16, is £650; but £182 10s. has been taken away from Clarence and handed over to Richmond by order of the Government, in consequence of a Policeman being stationed at Risdon Ferry; so that Clarence only receives £467 10s., which is less by £182 10s. than the sum fixed for it by Parliament, and less by £103 10s. than I propose in my scheme now before the Committee.

17 AUGUST, 1864.

A. GRAHAM, *Esquire, Warden of the Municipality of Glamorgan, called in and examined.*

In answer to Questions from the Chairman :—

I am Warden of the Rural Municipality of Glamorgan, and have been so since its creation in 1860.

I am aware that the Grant in Aid will expire on the 1st January, 1865.

I have perused the evidence given before this Committee by the Warden of Clarence; and I think, taking all into consideration, that it is the most equitable mode of contribution in aid of Rural Municipalities. I have no plan of my own at present prepared, as my visit to Town was on private business and not connected with this subject.

The only difficulty which I foresee in carrying out the scheme in its entirety is the fact which I know of the Valuation Rolls in various Municipalities being made up on different principles with regard to the amounts of the different properties.

I would therefore recommend the Committee to see if some plan could not be devised for ascertaining, as far as possible, the correct value of similar properties in various Districts, so as to make the amount of Rate paid by the Inhabitants press somewhat equally.

In Glamorgan I know that properties were valued, when the Valuation Rolls were first made out about 7 or 8 years ago, at a very high rate; and the same Roll has been in existence for 8 years nearly, and was made up when properties were more valuable than they are now.

We have continued to pay on the same Roll, under the impression that, as we had to raise the difference between the amount paid to us from the Colonial Treasury and our actual expenditure, it could make no real difference whether we paid Sixpence in the Pound on a smaller amount or Threepence on double the sum.

Consequently, our Valuation Roll is much in excess of the real value of properties at the present time.

That is the only point on which the plan of the Warden of Clarence will press unequally.

The Treasurer of our Municipality is in town, and, if summoned, could give valuable information to the Committee.

JOHN FORSTER, *Esquire, Inspector of Police, called in and examined.*

The Police organisation must be considered of general benefit to the Colony. Rural Municipalities must go beyond mere Municipal protection, and carry out a general organisation for the benefit of the whole Colony.

If they confine themselves to the protection of their own interests, their expenditure could be considerably reduced.

The Police expenses bear unequally, varying according to the geographical position, area, and population of the Districts.

I think Sixpence is the maximum rate which Municipalities should be assessed at for Police purposes. The fairness of such a rate depends so much on the circumstances and value of properties in the Municipalities, and the peculiar organisation of the force; the difference should be made up by Government aid as far as possible.

Some Agricultural Districts are assessed higher proportionately than the Pastoral Districts. One or two of the Pastoral Districts are under assessed, even as Pastoral Districts.

I think the Valuation Rolls can hardly be taken as at present prepared, but they might be modified.

Whatever mode may be adopted, an arbitrary principle must be embodied in it.

I have looked over the Scheme of the Warden of Clarence, and I think it a good one, if it could be applied to the Municipalities which are established.

Districts on the North would not benefit so much as those on the South.

For instance, Longford would have a very small sum in aid,—Spring Bay a large sum. Thus the Scheme is a partial one.

I have carefully considered the matter over, and cannot hit on any plan in which some arbitrary discretion must not be left to the Committee.

One portion of the Scheme I am opposed to; and that is that the Salaries of the Warden and Council Clerk should be charged to Police Expenditure. A proportion only should be charged to that Fund; say half of their salaries, the Warden at £100 a year, the Council Clerk at £180, which is, I believe, the average salary allowed to Council Clerks.

Spring Bay, under Mr. Abbott's Scheme, would receive £845. A Sixpenny Police Rate, in addition, would cover the whole Police Expenditure of the District.

In England the Government pay one-fourth part of the expense, on the Certificate of the Inspector of Police that the Police of the County is sufficient and efficient.

I can hardly say whether a vote in aid of Sixpence in the Pound on the present Valuation Rolls is fairer than the arbitrary method proposed by the Warden of Clarence.

18 AUGUST, 1864.

FRANCIS COTTON, *Esquire, called in and examined.*

I am a Councillor of the Rural Municipalities of Glamorgan and Spring Bay, and have been Treasurer of Glamorgan since its creation in 1860. I have had, therefore, considerable experience in the working of those Rural Municipalities.

I have looked over the scheme of the Clarence Warden, and am satisfied that it is as nearly as possible perfect. I think so, on looking at the arrangement for Glamorgan and Spring Bay.

The Committee would do well to look into the internal management of every Municipality. An intelligent Warden, who interested himself, could materially reduce the Police Expenditure.

If a larger staff than necessary is kept up in other Districts, the Aid need not be in proportion.

Our Grant in Aid for Glamorgan should be £800. By economy we make our present grant of £650 do.

Concentrated properties are more easily protected than scattered.

On account of the poverty of the Spring Bay lands, the people cannot afford to pay such high rates.

Spring Bay District is extensive, covering 280,000 acres, and by a contemplated alteration 300,000 more will be added to it. The Inhabitants, being widely scattered, will require Police protection.

There are many robberies in that District. I have myself suffered in that way.

We could not be merged in Sorell or Richmond. It would be a mistake to do so, or to reduce the extent of Spring Bay in any way. Glamorgan would decline any larger area than at present.

I consider the Assessment Roll of Spring Bay a fair one generally, as far my knowledge goes. We have no good pasture lands there.

Spring Bay assesses itself a Shilling in the Pound for Road Rates, but has never levied a Police Rate; the Government subsidy of £1200 covers the expense, and leaves a margin for Police Buildings.

23rd August, 1864.

SIR,

As the Warden of the District of Glenorchy, I take the opportunity of expressing my entire satisfaction of the principle which guided the Committee in the distribution of the sum allotted for assistance to the Municipalities.

Having been furnished by you with the scheme proposed, and afterwards having had the opportunity of perusing the propositions adopted, I carefully studied them both in their relation to my own District, and generally as regarded the community. The main feature in the propositions is their evident equity, realising, as it does, the claims which should be fairly borne in view, both of comparatively valueless property and sparsely peopled Districts: to all it gives assistance, and enlarges its grants according to the necessities of the locality. And, moreover, sufficient time has now elapsed since the establishment of these Institutions to enable the Executive and the Legislature to obtain true information as to the position and requirements of all the Districts; and so fairly to apportion, as I believe has been done, the aid of the Government equitably to all the Districts. And the principle has still another value, as the scheme can continue permanently from year to year, although the actual money grant will of necessity vary.

Believe me to be,

Truly yours,

HENRY BUTLER, *Warden, Glenorchy.*

To the Chairman of the Committee on Municipal Grants.