

(No. 79.)



1869.

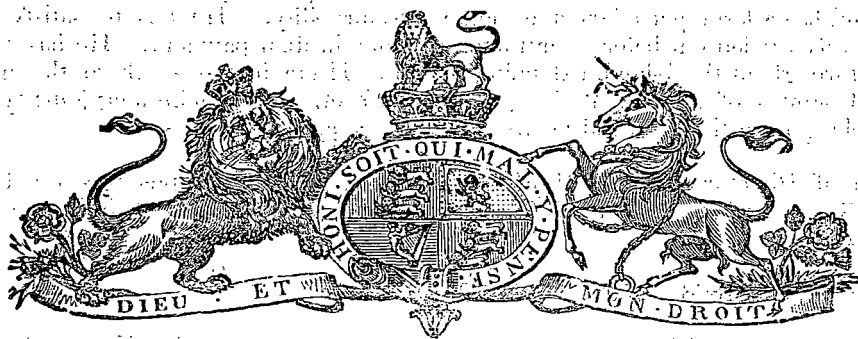
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

OFFICERS IN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Return to an Order of the Council dated September 23, 1869. (Mr. Crowther.)

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, October 7; and ordered by the Council to be printed, October 8, 1869.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, TASMANIA.

THE Department has to look after the maintenance and repair of the following Public Buildings, the property of the Colony:—New Government House; Houses of Legislature; Public Buildings occupied by the following Departments, Colonial Secretary's; Colonial Treasury; Audit; Customs, Hobart and Launceston; Customs, Outports; Post Offices, Hobart Town and Launceston; Stores; Government Printer; Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages; Public Works; Electric Telegraph; Powder Magazine, and Public Buildings, Launceston; Supreme Courts, Hobart Town and Launceston; Sheriff's; Insolvent Court; Court of Requests and General Sessions; Lands Titles and Registry of Deeds; Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk; Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children, New Town; General Hospital, Hobart; ditto, Launceston; Cascades Pauper Establishment for Males and Females; Brickfields Pauper Establishment; Invalid Depôt for Paupers, Launceston; Buildings, Orphan School Farm; Offices of Inspector of Police; Police Buildings, District of Hobart; ditto, Huon; ditto, Launceston: ditto, George Town; ditto, District Port Sorell; ditto, District of Horton, Circular Head, including Wynyard and Emu Bay; Gaol and House of Correction for Males, Hobart; ditto for Females; ditto, Launceston; Survey Offices, Hobart Town and Launceston; and all other the Police and Public Buildings throughout the Island.

The Department has also charge of the Main Line of Road between Hobart Town and Launceston, and the May Pole and Risdon Ferry, the bridges and culverts thereon, and the road, Queen's Domain.

Also the construction and maintenance of works under the various Public Works Acts since 1865.

The ordinary office hours of the Department are from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., but the daily attendance much exceeds these hours, and which in 1857, when there was a fixed establishment at an annual cost of £2530, were from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. In order, however, to meet the requirements of the public service, and to carry on the increased business of the office with a much reduced clerical staff, the hours of attendance were considerably extended.

The work of the Department is of a most mixed description. The professional duties thereof consist in the preparation of designs for public buildings, plans and drawings of Police buildings, and of bridges and roads, the framing of estimates and specifications pertaining to each building and work, and which, after being prepared, require to be copied in triplicate. The construction, repair, and maintenance of all the Police buildings throughout the Island have to be attended to; also the supervision of all Government buildings, roads, and general works; as well as the repair and maintenance of the lines of Telegraph from Mount Nelson to Hobart, and thence to Launceston and George Town.

The fixed establishment which, in 1857, was maintained at an annual cost of £2430, and for allowances £100, before any public works under Loans Act were contemplated or undertaken, stands on the Estimates for the present year at £875, and for stationery, stores, fuel, light, and advertising £60, and travelling expenses £100; and for 1870 there is a reduction on this estimate of £100.

Provision is made thereon for the following Officers:—

Director of Public Works and Inspector of Telegraphs.

The duties of this Officer are of a varied and multifarious character. As Director of Public Works and Roads, and Inspector of Telegraphs, he has, as head of these departments, their direction, control and management. He has to advise with and consult the Government on works to be undertaken, to furnish reports thereon, and information pertaining to their cost and construction, to inspect all works on hand at stated intervals, and make an annual inspection of all public buildings.

He has to devote much time to the professional duties of his department, both architectural and engineering, and has a large pecuniary and money responsibility. He has to satisfy himself that works are properly carried out before Contractors can obtain final payment. He has to travel and inspect works throughout the Island, extending from the Huon in the south to the most extreme point in the Counties of Devon, Wellington, and Dorset, and to make long journeys in outlying localities branching from these several points, having to camp out for days.

The Office of Director of Public Works and Inspector of Telegraphs was filled by the late William Rose Falconer from January, 1859, being date of first appointment under the Government, to 26th May, 1869.

Amount of Salary, 1868 : £500. 1869 : 201 12s. 3d.

The present Director of Public Works and Inspector of Telegraphs, Francis Butler, entered upon the duties of his Office on 8th June, 1869, the date of his appointment, at the reduced salary of £400 per annum, at which rate he is paid. Mr. Butler prepares himself the designs for buildings, additions and alterations to buildings ; thus relieving the Draftsman of the most essential, important, and particular portion of preliminary work.

Amount of Salary from 8th June, 1869, to 31st August, 1869 : £92 4s. 5d.

Chief Clerk Public Works, James Gray.

The late Director of Public Works, under date 9th February, 1863, reported as follows :—

“ This Officer has, since 1st January, 1859, performed the duties heretofore pertaining to three Clerks. The increased work of the Department demanded from him ten and often twelve hours a day. His duties entail upon him a large amount of correspondence, great pecuniary responsibility, and clerical labour, involving numerous references on many important questions. He has charge of the books and accounts of the Office, and has to attend to the usual daily routine of its duty, and to numerous incidental matters of a trifling nature which constantly occur, and which, though apparently unimportant, occupy time and attention. He has to prepare returns in connection with the Department called for by the Government and the Parliament.”

Of 10,273 claims, containing thousands of items, and amounting to tens of thousands of pounds, and which have passed through his hands since the late Mr. Falconer's appointment, the entire surcharge has only been 1s.

The increased work caused by the carrying out of the Loans Acts since 1865 continue the same, but for these additional duties Mr. Gray is paid £5 per month under authority “ T 3401.”

Chief Clerk : James Gray. Date of first appointment : 1st January, 1848. In 22nd year of service. Salary, 1868 : £300. 1869 to 31st August : £200.

NOTE.—The printed papers, A. & B.,* hereto appended, “ Returns of Expenditure,” as furnished to the Statistician for the service of 1868, and the Report of the Director of 24th August, 1869, marked C.† of works undertaken and in progress, will give a fair idea of the large amount of clerical work and labour which has to be performed by the Department.

Messenger and Storeman, Alexander Nielson, has charge of the Public Works Offices and yard attached ; resides on the premises, cleans the offices, lights the fires, and performs the duties of Storeman and Messenger. His hours of work are from from six to six, and often longer, particularly when the Officers are detained late, and during the sitting of Parliament.

Salary, 1868 : £65. 1869 : £50 to 31st August.

Present Temporary Staff.

Under the arrangements made by the Government, by which the votes on account of the several works under Loans Acts are made to bear the cost of supervision, drafting, copying, &c., on account of such works. The following youths are employed in the Office under the drafting and copying authority, which is annually applied for.

William Smith, who entered the Office in January, 1863, at 10s. per week, and who has now served 6 years and 9 months, is a most hardworking and industrious lad. He has to attend to the accounts of Contractors, and in many instances to make the same out ;—examine them, append authorities, and keep rough ledger ; and has to perform a very great amount of clerical work and copying. He was paid 5s. 6d. per diem from 1st January, 1868, to 30th June, 1869 ; and since, 6s. per diem working days.

Amount paid in 1868 : £85 16s. 1869 : £58 10s. 6d.

* See Paper No. 1, (Statistics, 1868,) pp. 102, 103.

† See Paper No. 41.

J. B. Boothman, entered in February, 1866. Twelve months on probation, without pay; received in 1868 3s. 4d. per diem, and in 1869 4s. per diem, for working days. Employed in entering abstracts, bills, and copying specifications, &c.

Amount paid in 1868: £50 0s. 8d. 1869: £41 12s.

Draftsman.

C. J. Young, temporarily employed in Drafting Office on plans, elevations, sections, working and detail drawings, and tracings of same, and occasionally in looking after petty repairs to buildings, &c. Paid when employed 14s. per diem.

Amount paid in 1868: £205 16s. In 1869: £142 16s. to 31st August.

Temporary Overseers of Work.

Whose employment depends entirely on the provision made by the Legislature for Public Works, and whose services are sanctioned as a temporary arrangement only.

W. H. Cheverton, employed under order and direction of the Head of the Department as an Overseer, in looking after the works on which Contractors and labour are employed, south side, viz.—New Huon Road, and roads, bridges and jetties, Huon District; Main Line of Road; repairs to public buildings generally, and alterations to Old Commissariat Stores for Bonding Warehouse.

Rate of pay 13s. 8d. for every day, £40 per annum for forage, and, when absent on duty, travelling expenses at 14s. per diem, and horse-keep less forage. Date when first employed, 1st September, 1860.

Amount of Salary paid in 1868: £288 15s. 5d. In 1869: £192 14s. 4d. to 31st August.
Travelling expenses incurred in 1868: £86 5s. 5d. In 1869: £64 13s. 9d.

John R. Frith, supervising works, roads, and bridges in the Counties of Devon and Wellington, at the Rivers Leven and Blythe, and at Ulverstone, Dooley's, and Gunn's Plains, and Castra, and the erection of Police and Customs' buildings in the District.

Paid when at work 14s. per diem, and £40 per annum allowance for horse-keep. Date when first employed, January, 1866.

Amount of Salary paid in 1868: £257 7s. 6d. In 1869: £172 5s. 4d. to 31st August.
Travelling expenses incurred in 1868: £4 18s. In 1869: £4 12s.

John Cunningham—supervising works in the County of Dorset, at Patersonia, Bridport, Scott's New Country, and Ringarooma Roads, and the erection of bridges on these lines; pegging out sites of jetties at Bridport and the Tomahawk, and marking track of proposed route to Waterhouse, and looking after the erection of Police buildings, Scottsdale, and the construction of roads and bridges in the Agricultural Area, District of George's Bay.

Paid, when at work 12s. per diem, and 2s. per diem allowance for horse-keep. Date of first employment as Overseer, January, 1866.

Amount of Salary paid in 1868, £223 4s.; in 1869, £149 2s. to 31st August. Travelling expenses incurred, 1868, *nil*; in 1869, £28 19s.

Supernumeraries dispensed with,

On daily pay not required when works completed on which engaged.

John Rait, employed looking after the putting in of the foundations and erection of new building for female paying patients, New Norfolk. Rate of pay, £3 per week.

Amount of Salary paid in 1868, £25 10s.; in 1869, £91 15s.

John Helmer, employed in looking after the erection of a pile and corbel bridge, 234 feet long 12 feet wide and 14 feet from bottom of river over the Detention River. Also a bridge 148 feet long and 12 feet wide over the Crayfish River; and the constructing, draining, and culverting of road between the Big Creek to the River Inglis, under Wm. Coucher's Contract.

Paid 12s. per diem when at work.

Amount of Salary paid in 1868, £28 10s.; in 1869, £112 16s., includes travelling expenses.

A. T. Morrison, Assistant Draftsman, employed making tracings; rate of pay, 12s. per diem, Paid in 1868, £129 1s.; 1869, not employed.

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS MADE TO PERSONS IN FOREGOING RETURN.

Fixed Establishment.

		1868.			1869.			
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Director of Public Works and Inspector of Telegraphs	W. R. Falconer	500	0	0	201	12	3	Travelling Expenses against Vote of £100. Expended in 1868, £99 17s. 6d.
Ditto	Francis Butler	Nil.			92	4	5	
Chief Clerk	James Gray	300	0	0	200	0	0	Under Loans Acts.
	Ditto	60	0	0	40	0	0	
Messenger and Storeman	Alex. Nielson	65	0	0	50	0	0	

Temporary Staff, under Drafting and Copying Authority, whose Employment depends solely on the Work to be performed, and who are liable to immediate reduction when their Services are no longer required.

Drafting and Copying Branch	William Smith	85	16	0	58	10	6
Ditto	J. B. Boothman	50	0	8	41	12	0
Draftsman	C. J. Young	205	16	0	142	16	0

supernumerary dispensed with, being no longer required.

Draftsman	A. T. Morrison	129	1	0	Nil.		
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Overseers of Works at present on the Staff of the Department, and whose Services are sanctioned as a temporary arrangement only.

		1868.			1869.			£	s.	d.	
South Side	W. H. Cheverton	288	15	5	192	14	4	Travelling Expenses, 1868 ..	86	5	5
Leven, Ulverstone, Castra, &c.	Jno. R. Frith	257	7	6	172	5	4	Ditto, 1869	64	13	9
								Ditto, 1868	4	18	0
Patersonia, Scottsdale, &c.	Jno. Cunningham	223	4	0	149	2	0	Ditto, 1869	4	12	0
								Ditto, 1868	Nil.		
								Ditto, 1869	28	19	0

supernumeraries for limited periods whose Services have been dispensed with.

New Buildings—							
Asylum, New Norfolk	John Rait	25	10	0	91	15	0
Wynyard, Table Cape, Deten- tion, and Crayfish	John Helmer	28	10	0	112	16	0

Correct,

JAMES GRAY, *Chief Clerk.*
30th September, 1869.

Countersigned as from date of my taking charge,

FRANCIS BUTLER, *Director of Public Works.*
30th September, 1869.