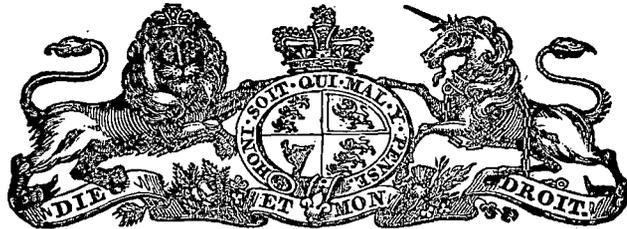


(No. 6.)



1877.

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T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

---

E A S T D E V O N.

M U N I C I P A L A C T I O N.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, January 25, 1877.



**MEMO.**

THE Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works is requested to cause a tracing to be prepared, showing the area proposed to be constituted a Rural Municipality to embrace the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington.

*The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.*

**B. TRAVERS SOLLY.**  
17th Oct., 1873.

PLAN is herewith as requested.

*The Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

**WM. MOORE.**  
23rd Oct., 1873.

I WOULD advise that this Petition should not be advertised at present.

27th Oct., 1873.

**WM. MOORE.**

*Latrobe, 12th April, 1876.*

SIR,

WILL you be pleased to inform me whether the Government purpose giving effect to the prayer of the Petition of the Ratepayers of the Electoral District of East Mersey and the Parish of Barrington adjoining, praying to be proclaimed a Rural Municipality under "The Rural Municipality Act," &c.? And if not, please state the reason why, in order that the Petitioners may adopt such other measures as will entitle them to adopt Municipal action under the said Act.

The Petition in question was addressed to the Governor in Council in 1874, and subsequently lay in your office; and on July 30th, 1874, laid upon the table of the House of Assembly, and I presume subsequently returned to your office.

I have on more than one occasion interviewed your predecessor in reference to the Petition in question, but always failed to elicit any response, either affirmative or negative, and hence I am unable to give any satisfactory response to the many frequent and anxious enquiries made of me by the petitioners—my constituents. I am sure you will fail to find any valid reason for treating a matter of such importance in such a manner, and therefore will not hesitate to furnish the information asked for in an unequivocal and intelligent manner, and oblige,

Yours, &c.

(Signed) **J. M. DOOLEY.**

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*House of Assembly, 12th September, 1876.*

SIR,

SOME months past I wrote a letter to your predecessor, asking for information in reference to a Petition from the Ratepayers of East Devon praying to be permitted to assume Municipal action, to which I have yet got no reply.

And now I have the honor to solicit from you a reply to the letter in question. It is a matter in which the ratepayers are much interested; and on perusal of the correspondence you will, I think, admit that they are entitled to a more favourable consideration than they have hitherto met with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **J. M. DOOLEY.**

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, 14th September, 1876.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Colonial Secretary, in reply to your letter of the 12th instant, to say that from constant pressure of business he has been unable to attend to the subject of your communication to his predecessor of the 12th April last, but that he trusts shortly to address you in answer to your questions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

J. M. DOOLEY, Esq., M.H.A., House of Assembly.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 24th October, 1876.

SIR,

REFERRING to Section 7 of "The Rural Municipalities Act, 1865," 29<sup>o</sup> Victoria, No. 8, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to put a cross (×) against the name of each person signing the enclosed Petition who may be an owner or occupier of property of the annual value of not less than £20, *within the area of the proposed Rural Municipality*, in the accompanying Valuation Roll for the District of Port Sorell for 1876. Opposite the name of each Petitioner possessing the required qualification please insert the page of the Valuation Roll on which it appears.

I shall be glad to have this information supplied as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

The Stipendiary Magistrate, Torquay.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Hobart Town, 6th November, 1876.

RETURN original Petition for Municipality by return post. It is required for House of Assembly. Make and keep a copy for you to work upon.

THOS. REIBEY, Hobart.

Police Magistrate, Torquay.

RETURNED by first post. My copy to follow as soon as possible. Great doubt must exist as to many signatures.

THOMAS A. MURRAY.  
7th Nov., 1876.

Hon. THOS. REIBEY.

I HAVE the honor to enclose copy of the Petition with the marks and numbers required. I may remark on it that the Petitioners, however numerous, do not represent the majority of the population in the proposed district, nor the educated portion of that population.

THOMAS A. MURRAY, P.M.  
20th November, 1876.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, Esq.

P. S.—The population in that District in 1870 was about 6356, and the Petitioners represent about 1575. I would have replied sooner but had inflamed eyes.—T. A. M.

*Signatures to Petition as they occur on Roll.*

*Parish of Dulverton.*  
Henry Cooper.  
J. G. Johnson.  
Stephen Kelcey.  
Amos Langmaid.  
John Ryan.  
James Thompson.  
Arthur Winter.

*Parish of Kentisbury.*  
William Braid.  
James Butt.  
James Butcher.  
John Cables.

John Davies.  
John Henry Dawson.  
John Dyer.  
James Dodd.  
Wm. Exell.  
John Hope.  
James Husband.  
E. Hammant.  
Thomas Johnson.  
Edmond Lord.  
Edw. Moss.  
Wm. Morris.  
John M'Farlan.  
Peter Pease.  
John Powlett.

James Powlett.  
Alexander Turnbull.  
Joseph Wilson.  
John Wilson.

*Parish of Barrington.*  
Edward Atkins.  
John Denny.  
Charles Packet.  
David Rundle.  
John Reeves.  
William Smith. ×  
Alexander Smith.

*Parish of Spreyton.*

George Atkinson.  
Daniel French.  
William Johnson. ×  
William Rielly.  
Michl. Maxwell Shaw.  
James Williams.

*Parish of Harford.*

Edwin Addison. ×  
Thomas Addison. ×  
Geo. Aiken. ×  
Thomas Bonney. ×  
Joseph Bramich. ×  
William Von Bibra.  
John Harrison.  
Alexander Wm. Loane.  
John Morris.  
Christian Plapp. ×  
William Turnbull. ×  
John Williams.  
Donald Westcomb.  
Joseph Whiffin.

*Parish of Templeton.*

William Bamfield. ×  
Edwin Bartlett.  
James Dick.  
George Jarman.  
Joseph Jarman.

Joseph Sankey. ×  
Godfrey Weller. ×  
James Webb.

*Parish of Forrabury.*

James Bonney.  
Thomas Bramich. ×  
Michael Bourke. ×  
Robert Beveridge. ×  
Jonathan Graham.  
J. Herps.  
George Harrison.  
George Ingram.  
Peter Jepp.  
James Kelly.  
Frederick Maddox.  
Michael Roache.  
George Rockliff.  
John Rockliff.  
Francis Rockliff.  
George Shadbolt.  
John Turnbull. ×  
George Turnbull. ×  
Robert Wright. ×  
Patrick Shields.

*Town of Latrobe.*

Edward Allen.  
Robert Bauld.  
Joseph Bramich. ×  
Robert Brown.

J. M. Dooley.  
Robert Earl.  
William Heron.  
Edward Heditch.  
Joseph Lobley.  
William Mitchel.  
Maurice Nathan.  
Ryton Oldham.  
B. S. Oppenheim.  
Henry Philips.  
Robert Purdy.  
Samuel Reddy.  
J. W. H. Shirt.  
W. V. Sutton.  
Frederick Young.

Dulverton .....	7
Kentisbury .....	23
Barrington .....	7
Spreyton .....	6
Harford .....	14
Templeton .....	8
Forrabury .....	20
Latrobe .....	19

Total signatures fully qualified	104
Number of signatures not fully qualified .....	207

Total of signatures .....	311
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Analysed by J. M. DOOLEY.  
October 21st, 1876.

## MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 27th November, 1876.*

SUBMITTED,

THAT in accordance with the provisions of the 7th Section of "The Rural Municipalities Act," (29 Vict. No. 8), the enclosed petition from certain ratepayers in the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington, praying that the said District and Parish may be declared a Municipality, be published in the *Gazette*.

CHARLES MEREDITH,  
*For the Colonial Secretary, absent.*

THE Governor in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL,  
27. 11. 76.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

## GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 43.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th November, 1876.*

THE Governor in Council having received a Petition signed by not less than fifty persons who are proprietors or occupiers of property in the Police District of Port Sorell, of the annual value, as shown in the Valuation Roll, of not less than Twenty Pounds, praying that the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington may be declared a Rural Municipality under "The Rural Municipalities Act," (29 Vict. No. 8), His Excellency in Council hereby causes the said Petition to be published in the *Gazette*, in accordance with the provisions of the said Act; and the said Petition is as follows:—

To His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Governor of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The Petition of the undersigned owners and occupiers of property in the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united.

SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners are impressed with the belief that the time has arrived when the advantages of local self-government may be conferred on the aforesaid district under the Act of Parliament 29 Vict. No. 8.

And your Petitioners therefore pray that your Excellency may be pleased to cause the said Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united to be proclaimed a Rural Municipality under the Act above quoted and under the title of the "Latrobe Rural Municipality."

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, ever pray, &c.

Henry Cooper	Joseph Wilson	his	John R. Turnbull
James Husband	John M'Farlane	John x Hearps	George Aitken
John Denny	William Riley	mark.	A. W. Loane
Edward Atkins	Michael Maxwell Shaw	Witness—Thos. Clarkson	Joseph Sankey
Daniel Rundle	James Williams	his	William Banfield
John Harrison	William Johnson	Daniel x French	Patrick Nolan
William Smith	John Ryan	mark	James Stubbins
Charles Packett	Maurice Nathan	Witness—W. V. Sutton	Gottfried Weller
William Winter	J. G. Johnson	Edward Hancox	James Dick
Arthur Winter	R. Purdy	Thomas Bramich	Michael Beurk
Amos Langmaid	Joseph Loblely	E. Hedditch	Joseph Wiffen
James Dodd	Wm. Heron	Robert Wright	George Jarman
John Wilson	J. W. A. Shirt	Mithal Roche	Edwin Addison
John Powlett	Robert Earl	Peter Jupp	Thomas Oakley
Joseph Crack	Benjn. Saul Oppenheim	his	Robert Beveridge
John Hope	George Atkinson	Patrick x Shields	E. Allen
William Morris	Ryton Oldham	mark	George Harrison
Peter Peise	Henry Phillips	Witness—Thos. Clarkson	his
William Excell	Samuel Ready	Jonathan Graham	Frederick x Maddox
William Braid	Robert Bauld	John Rockliff	mark
George Redpath	James Kelly	George Shadbolt	Witness—Thos. Clarkson
James Powlett	Fredk. Young	George Turnbull	Thomas Bonney
John Dyer	Stephen Kelcey	W. F. Von Bibra	Joseph Branich, sen.
Robert Manley	George Rockliff	James Bonney	Thomas Addison
Alexander Turnbull	Francis Rockliff	William Turnbull	D. Wescombe
Edmund Lord	George Ingram	John Williams	
Edward Hammant		James Thompson	

By His Excellency's Command,

CHARLES MEREDITH,  
For the Colonial Secretary, absent.

To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, C.M.G., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE have the honor to lay before Your Excellency a Petition praying that East Devon and Barrington may not be constituted a Municipality.

We have obtained signatures in numbers sufficient to answer the Petition gazetted, and have the honor to lay them before Your Excellency.

At the same time we have the honor to point out to Your Excellency that, in our opinion, the establishment of a Municipality at the present time would be an injury to the material interests of this District.

We have, &c.

(Signed) A. YOUNG, J.P.  
J. H. M'CALL.

Torquay, 23rd December, 1876.

THE Stipendiary Magistrate is requested to examine this Petition, and mark the page on the Valuation Roll where the name of each Ratepayer who is entitled by the Act to sign appears.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.  
28 Dec. 1876.

The Stipendiary Magistrate, Torquay.

To FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, C.M.G., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Owners and Occupiers of Property in the Municipal District of Mersey.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners have seen in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of 28th November last a Petition purporting to be signed by certain owners and occupiers of property in the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united, praying that the said District and Parish be proclaimed a Municipality.

That the population of the District of Mersey, in which District East Devon and Barrington are situated, though numerous is widely scattered,—consists chiefly of small farmers and labourers who have neither time nor inclination to attend to local self-government, and who, your Petitioners believe, are well satisfied with the present arrangements.

That, in the opinion of your Petitioners, the population of this District (including the whole of it) does not contain the requisites for the successful working of a Municipality. That the formation of a portion only into a Municipality would entail inferior management with increased taxation, and would be very injurious to the agriculturists who have already so much to contend against.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to reject the Petition above alluded to, and refuse to cause the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington to be proclaimed a Municipality.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

	<i>Annual Value of Property in District.</i>		<i>Annual Value of Property in District.</i>
	£		£
William Chapman, p. 7, 14 .....	25	Charles King, p. 20 .....	20
William Bennett, p. 6, 12 .....	60	Bernard Burgess, p. 20 .....	70
Charles Saunders, Wesleyan Minister, p. 10	20	Albert Lamprey, p. 29 .....	30
Michael Wood, p. 11, 9 .....	30	John Lamprey, p. 29 .....	47
T. E. O. Mell, Congregational Minister, p. 9, 6	29	Edward Handcox, p. 26 .....	30
John Murray, p. 9, 23 .....	21	Michael Burke, p. 25 .....	38
John Griffiths, p. 8 .....	83	Robert Dick, p. 25 .....	55
George Best, p. 6, 9, 10, 17 .....	157	Turton S. Thomas, p. 21, 24 .....	203
George Laycock, p. 9 .....	34	George Jarman, p. 23 .....	24
George Buck, p. 6, 7 .....	83	W. F. Wright, J.P., p. 21 .....	66
Henry Carter, p. 7 .....	38	W. H. Wright, agent for C. H. Wright, p. 20, 21, 22 .....	163
Sydney Griffiths, p. 8 .....	26	W. B. Baker, p. 20, 25 .....	77
Daniel Phillips, p. 10 .....	40	John Reid, p. 21 .....	70
Roger Winspear, p. 24, 25, 23, 22, 28 .....	175	Godfrey Willer, p. 24 .....	39
J. & T. Maxfield, p. 9, 18 .....	28	James Stubbins, p. 24 .....	20
George Laphorne, p. 9 .....	43	John Casey, p. 22 .....	26
James Naylor, p. 9, 10 .....	24	James Marshall, p. 21 .....	20
James Bain, p. 6, 7 .....	33	Joseph Bramich, senior, p. 20, 23, 22, 24 ..	102
Michael Doyle, p. 7 .....	24	Edwin Addison, p. 20, 21 .....	47
William Gadsby, p. 22 .....	20	Thomas Bonney, p. 20 .....	48
Alexander Logan, p. 23, 9 .....	30	William Turnbull, senior, p. 20, 21 .....	93
Samuel H. Thomas, J.P., p. 21, 23, 24 ..	407	William Turnbull, junior, p. 28 .....	35
Joseph Sankey, p. 24 .....	23	Christian Plapp, p. 21 .....	46
R. D. Stewart, p. 24 .....	150	James Spurr, p. 27 .....	30
John Williams, p. 21 .....	26	H. J. Wilson, J.P., p. 21, 24 .....	113
A. V. Dumbleton, J.P., Major H.M.S., p. 22, 5 .....	47	George Harrison, p. 26 .....	30
Charles Friend, p. 22, 7 .....	24	Thomas Bramich, p. 25 .....	104
Joshua Lyons, p. 23 .....	44	George Smallbon, p. 24 .....	25
W. H. Garrett, p. 22 .....	20	Patrick Leo, p. 26 .....	32
Charles Saunders (2nd), p. 24, 23 .....	20	Eli Clark, p. 22 .....	36
Charles Child, p. 22 .....	20	George Aitken, p. 20 .....	25
Benjamin Ruddock, p. 24 .....	20	William Finlay, p. 22 .....	30
J. H. M'Call, p. 23, 8, 10 .....	50	Joseph Bramich, p. 27 .....	40
George Francis, p. 22 .....	50	Joseph Stott, p. 21, 24 .....	27
William Sayer, p. 24, 15 .....	22	D. Westcombe (Donald, written in one place Daniel), p. 20, 21, 22, 24 .....	122
George Tucker, p. 24 .....	28	James Green, p. 22 .....	20
James Phillips, p. 23 .....	72	Thomas Addison, p. 20 .....	28
A. Young, J.P., Surgeon-Major, H.M.I.A., p. 25 .....	87	Alexander Dawson, p. 20 .....	25
Charles Oldaker, Commissioner Supreme Court, p. 22, 23 .....	81	John R. Turnbull, p. 27 .....	25
George Wright, p. 24 .....	20	George Turnbull, p. 21, 27 .....	41
Robert Stewart, p. 22, 23, 24, 25 .....	270	George Wright, p. 21 .....	25
James Sayer, p. 22, 23, 24 .....	55	Alfred Bryan, p. 25 .....	40
Robert Brown, p. 20 .....	71	Robert Beveridge, p. 25 .....	95
John Brown, p. 20 .....	31	Joseph Rawson, p. 26 .....	20
H. J. Chamberlen, J.P., p. 20 .....	160	William Johnson, p. 19 .....	57
M. W. Loane, J.P., p. 20, 21, 22, 23 .....	299	Fred. Bramich (p. 1124, roll for 1877) .....	40
Sampson Andrew, p. 17, 22 .....	60	James Moore, p. 23, 24 .....	32
James Andrew, p. 17 .....	20	Alexander Elphinstone, p. 20 .....	32
Miles de Hale Ponsonby, p. 21 .....	27	William Smith, p. 17, 18 .....	25
James Reynolds, p. 21 .....	40	George Smith, p. 21, 26 .....	30
William Balmfield, p. 22 .....	31	John Brown, p. 22 .....	30
Thomas Boutcher, p. 22 .....	28	George Francis, as agent for Irvine & M'Eachern, p. 22, 23, 24 .....	110
John Brown, p. 20 .....	21	James Webb, p. 25 .....	25

106 Names selected as qualified to petition; rateable value of their Property, £6030.

Police Office, Torquay, 4th January, 1877.

SIR,

In accordance with your request of the 28th December ultimo I have examined the accompanying petition, and marked against the names of the petitioners the pages of the Valuation Roll in which their names appear so far as I have discovered them.

Beyond my instruction, I have examined into the list of valuations presented by the gentlemen who addressed His Excellency, and corrected the valuations given, both by addition and reduction of the figures, where it appeared necessary to accuracy.

Unable to account for many of those figures by the Valuation Roll, I placed myself in connection with those gentlemen, and have allowed many of their valuations to stand as necessary to equity and fact, though not evidenced by the roll. It is consequently necessary to enter into details to enable the Government to accept or reject as they may deem right.

1. Charles Saunders (2nd) has for twelve months occupied a cottage in page 23 named as "unoccupied, owner Irvine and M'Eachern," which adds £10 to his valuation.
2. Rev. T. E. O. Mell rents a field from Mr. G. Best (p. 6); and has done so for twelve months, £5.
3. Mr. Geo. Best has for many months been the owner of field (p. 9), entered "unoccupied, E. Lumsden owner;" (among letter M.), £2.
4. Sydney Griffiths for more than a year has owned and occupied house "William King, £26," p. 8.
5. Jas. and Thos. Maxfield, brothers, include in their property land of Michael Maxfield, their father, deceased, p. 9, £14, and p. 18, £5.
6. Wm. Gadsby has for six months occupied house, p. 22, there entered to Sydney Griffiths, £20.
7. Geo. Tucker some months ago became owner of cottage entered to E. F. Dease, Esplanade £8, p. 22; also has occupied for six months "unoccupied house, Irvine and M'Eachern," p. 23, £10.
8. I find in James Phillips' case new property has not been included.
9. In H. J. Wilson's valuation has been included £7, his wife's property (nominally), rented by R. H. Davies, p. 22.

I might name one or two more but should tire you needlessly, as the paper will be examined in your office. The figures are justified by fact, and nearly all are as they stand in Valuation Roll. In looking over the signatures I found six qualified to petition had been left out; I have added them to the list.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS A. MURRAY.

B. TRAVERS. SOLLY, Esq., Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, 17th January, 1877.

SIR,

WITH reference to the Petition published in the Hobart Town Gazette of the 28th November last, praying that the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united be proclaimed a Rural Municipality, I have the honor to inform you that a counter Petition, signed by a greater number of persons who are owners or occupiers of property in the same District, having been received by the Governor in Council, the prayer of the Petition first presented cannot be complied with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

JAMES M. DOOLEY, Esq., M.H.A., River Forth.

To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Governor of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The Petition of the undersigned owners and occupiers of property in the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united.

SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners are impressed with the belief that the time has arrived when the advantages of local self-government may be conferred on the aforesaid District under the Act of Parliament 29 Vict. No. 8.

And your Petitioners not having the opportunity of signing the Petition now gazetted in favour of Municipality, most respectfully beg Your Excellency will take into favourable consideration the Petition so gazetted; and we pray

that our names may be added to the said Petition as we are desirous of having the said Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united to be proclaimed a Rural Municipality under the Act, above quoted, and under the title of the Latrobe Rural Municipality.

And your Petitioners will, as in duty bound, ever pray, &c.

Alfred Wells, Dulverton.	George Laphorne, Don.
E. Williams, Forrabury.	William Brash, Latrobe.
Joseph Bird, by Geo. Ingram, authorised agent, Forrabury.	Margaret Mitchell, freeholder, Latrobe.
E. Sharman, Forrabury.	Mary Elmer, Spreyton.
Joseph Bramich, junr., Virginstow.	Isaac Lundson, his × mark, Virginstow; witness, J. A. Webb.
Charles Huntington, leaseholder, Green's Creek.	N. H. Gerrand, Latrobe.
S. C. Kelcey, leaseholder, Latrobe.	George Rudge, Latrobe.
Charles Lovett, landowner, Latrobe.	Sampson Andrew, Templeton.
Peter J. Douglas, leaseholder, New Ground.	George Rawnsley, Latrobe.
Wm. Herron, landholder, Latrobe.	T. B. Moore, Templeton.
Richard F. Irvine, landholder, Torquay.	Maron Moore, her × mark; witness, T. B. Moore.
Fred. Morton, Templeton and Latrobe, stated separately.	A. A. Bramich, Harford and Templeton.
John M'Farlane, landowner, Kentishbury	Thos. Bramich, junr., Forrabury.
L. M'Innes, landowner, Nook.	John Bramich, junr., Forrabury.
Henry Douglas, landowner, New Ground.	James Andrews, Barrington.
George Rockliff, landowner, Sassafras.	Henry Weeks, Dulverton.
Henry Rockliff, landowner, Sassafras.	John Lamprey, junr., Virginstow.
John Rockliff, landowner, Sassafras.	John Ryan, Dulverton.
Joseph Walker, Virginstow.	George Bennett, Virginstow.
Richard Raynor, Virginstow, his × mark; witness, Geo. Atkinson, Green's Creek.	Charles Dewhurst, both Templeton and Harford.
Andrew Craigie, Forrabury.	James Duggan, Kentishbury.
Thos. Barretti, leaseholder, Latrobe.	James Butt, Kentishbury.
J. G. Johnson, landholder, Kentishbury.	W. R. Jones, Kentishbury.
John Bramich, junr., landholder, New Ground.	James Belter, Kentishbury.
M. L. Keon, freeholder, Latrobe.	John Huslard, Kentishbury.
Henry Phillips, freeholder, Latrobe.	Isaac Wilson, Kentishbury.
George A. Wakeham, freeholder, Latrobe.	F. D. Greenhill, Kentishbury.
E. Hedditch, Latrobe.	Edwin Moore, Kentishbury.
Alfred Ellis, freeholder, Latrobe.	Joseph Palmer, Harford and Templeton.
John Dyer, freeholder, Kentish.	

To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, Governor of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The Petition of the undersigned Owners and Occupiers of Property in the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united.

**SHOWETH :**

THAT your Petitioners beg to inform Your Excellency that they have signed a Petition against the above-mentioned District being declared a Municipality through misrepresentations, and on mature consideration we pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to cause our names to be erased from the said Petition, as we are desirous of seeing the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united being proclaimed a Rural Municipality under the Act of Parliament, 29th Vict. No. 8.

And your Petitioners will, as in duty bound, every pray, &c.

Thomas Addison, Harford and Templeton.	Robert Dick, Forrabury.
James Green, Templeton.	Michael Burke, Forrabury.
Alexander Dawson, Harford.	James Spurr, Forrabury.
Joseph Bramich, sen., Harford.	Fred. Bramich.
Edwin Addison, Harford and Templeton.	William Johnson, Spreyton.
William Collins.	James M'Hugh, his × mark, Forrabury; Benjamin S. Oppenheim, witness.
George Aitken, Harford and Templeton.	Christian Plapp, Harford and Templeton.
James Reynolds, Harford and Templeton.	John Lamprey, Virginstow.
John Brown, Harford and Templeton.	Albert Lamprey, Virginstow.
George Wright, Harford and Templeton, 2 places.	Albert Bryan, Forrabury.
George Harrison, Forrabury.	
Edward Hancox, Forrabury.	

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 18th January, 1877.

**MEMORANDUM.**

In the *Gazette* of the 28th November a Petition from certain Ratepayers in East Devon and the Parish of Barrington was published, praying that a certain defined area might be constituted a Rural Municipality.

Within two months from that date a counter Petition was received containing the names of a greater number of qualified Ratepayers; consequently no action in respect to the creation of the Rural Municipality could be taken.

The enclosed Petition purports to be from other Ratepayers, who now pray that their names may be added to the original Petition in favour of a Municipality, and another Petition is also forwarded from Ratepayers who pray that their names may be erased from the counter Petition.

The opinion of the Solicitor-General is requested as to whether the prayers of these two Petitions can be entertained, or whether the requirements of the 7th Section of "The Rural Municipalities Act," 29<sup>o</sup> Victoria, No. 8, having been complied with, those in favour of Municipal action must not commence *de novo*.

THOS. REIBEY.

*The Solicitor-General.*

I AM of opinion that proceedings must be commenced *de novo*.

ROBT. P. ADAMS,  
18th Jan., 1877.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

Torquay, 15th January. 1877.

To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, C.M.G., Governor of Tasmania, &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WE have the honor (in continuation of previous communication) to forward to Your Excellency a supplement to the Petition presented by us about a month ago, and have the honor to subscribe ourselves,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient Servants,

M. M'CALL.  
A. YOUNG.

FORWARDED to the Solicitor-General with reference to the case submitted for his opinion.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.  
18th Jan., 1877.

I HAVE nothing to add to my opinion already furnished to the Colonial Secretary.

R. P. A.  
20th Jan., 1877.

To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, C.M.G., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The humble Petition of the undersigned owners and occupiers of property in the District of Mersey,

HUMBLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners have seen in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of the 28th November last a Petition purporting to be signed by certain owners and occupiers of the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington, united, praying that the said District and Parish be proclaimed a Municipality.

That the population of the District of Mersey (in which District East Devon and Barrington are situated), though numerous is widely scattered, consists chiefly of small farmers and labourers, who have neither time nor inclination to attend to local self-government, and who, your petitioners believe, are well satisfied with the present arrangements.

That, in the opinion of your Petitioners, the population of this District (even including the whole of it) does not contain the requisites for the successful working of a Municipality. That the formation of a portion only into a Municipality would entail inferior management with increased taxation, and be very injurious to the agriculturists, who have already so much to contend against.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to reject the Petition above alluded to, and refuse to cause the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington to be proclaimed a Municipality.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

John F. Liddle.	David Robson.	J. T. B. Jordan.	John Kemp.
George Bonner.	Hugh Lillico.	John Hipper.	Keneday Guest.
Fredk. Hays.	Judd Macrow.	agent.	James Onions, junr.
W. H. Z. Thomas.	Herbert Powell.	John Murray.	Patrick Foley.
John Virtigan, senr.	James Madden.	James Smith.	Wm. Berry.
Thomas Lillico.	John Gibson.	A. M. Walker.	Peter Thomson.
John Ryan.	Robert Gibson.	Edwd. J. Beecraft.	Alexander Gardiner.
James Fenton.	James Scott.	H. T. Grainger.	his
Mills and Brothers.	William Yatley.	Thomas Trebilcock.	John x Williams.
Robert Snare.	Henry Madden.	John M'Culloch.	mark.
John Virtigan, junr.	Cummings, Henry, & Co.	Hugh M'Culloch.	Henry Field.
John Parker.	William Scott.	James M'Culloch.	Joseph Raymond.
Major-General Lodder.	Richd. Hall.	A. M. Reid.	B. W. Thomas.
George Barker.	G. W. Elliot, by his agent,	A. F. Risby.	J. Reynolds.
William Biggs.	R. Hall.	E. B. J. Walker.	
Henry Biggs.			

*Dean's Point, Latrobe, 12th January, 1877.*

SIR,

It is with much surprise and regret that I behold in the *Hobart Town Gazette* which is dated 28th November, 1876, a Petition (without date, and addressed to His Excellency the late Governor of Tasmania) praying for a Municipality, to be called the "Latrobe Rural Municipality."

As my name has been affixed without my knowledge to this said Petition, the Act confers upon me the right of being heard.

No meeting has been assembled by the Petitioners for the purpose of operating for a revival of their request. This course appears to me to be unconstitutional as well as extremely inadvisable. Some of the Petitioners may have changed their minds since they signed it, and, moreover, circumstances may have become altered, so that this Petition may now be very far indeed from conforming itself to the general wish of those parties whom it professes to represent.

I myself signed the Petition for the purpose of putting an extinguisher upon a certain malapert spirit of insubordination which was prompting the present seat of jurisprudence to demand the erection of a bridge upon the Mersey to the great injury of the shipping interests of Latrobe; and, sooth to say, Torquay is now reaping as it sowed in this whole matter, and very especially in reference to the Court House.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL MAXWELL SHAW.

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

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 20th January, 1877.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Petition to His Excellency the Governor praying that your names may be added to the Petition gazetted in favour of the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united being constituted a Municipality. In reply, I have to inform you that within two months from the 28th November last a counter Petition was received containing the names of a greater number of qualified Ratepayers than those signing the Petition you refer to.

The requirements of the 7th section of the Rural Municipalities Act, 29 Vict. No. 8, having been complied with, the question arose as to whether any other names could be added to either Petition, and the Solicitor-General has given it as his opinion that it will be necessary that all proceedings must be commenced *de novo*.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

*Messrs. ALFRED WELLS, E. WILLIAMS, JOSEPH BIRD, E. SHARMAN,  
JOSEPH BRAMICH, JUN., and the other Petitioners.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 20th January, 1877.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Petition to His Excellency the Governor praying that your names may be erased from the Petition against the formation of a Rural Municipality, as you are desirous of seeing the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington united proclaimed a Municipality. In reply, I have to inform you that within two months from the 28th November last a counter Petition was received containing the names of a greater number of qualified Ratepayers than those signing the Petition you refer to.

The requirements of the 7th section of the Rural Municipalities Act, 29 Vict. No. 8, having been complied with, the question arose as to whether any other names could be added to either Petition, and the Solicitor-General has given it as his opinion that it will be necessary that all proceedings must be commenced *de novo*.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS REIBEY.

*Messrs. THOS. ADDISON, JAMES GREEN, ALEX. DAWSON,  
JOSEPH BRAMICH, SENR., and the other Petitioners.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 22nd January, 1877.*

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. forwarding a supplement to the Petition praying that the Electoral District of East Devon and the Parish of Barrington may be proclaimed a Rural Municipality.

In reply, I have to inform you that the Petition in favour of Municipal action having, within the time prescribed by law, been met by a counter Petition containing a greater number of names of qualified Ratepayers, the prayer of the original Petition cannot be complied with.

Neither the Petition in favour nor that against the constitution of a Municipality can be supplemented, and if the Ratepayers in favour desire to renew their application they must commence *de novo*.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

*Messrs. J. H. M'CALL and A. YOUNG, Torquay.*