

This is to certify that I have known Mr. Adam Armstrong, of Carterton, for the past fourteen or fifteen years, and have had many and varied opportunities of judging as to his character and respectability, having been associated with him in political, municipal, and social work in the district where he now resides. The following are the results of my observation: I have always found him to be straightforward and upright in his dealings, at all times anxious to promote the welfare of the district, and, in fact, I should say he has done more to further the interests of the Borough of Carterton than any other man amongst its residents.

79, Riddiford Street, Wellington, 1st December, 1897.

THOS. PROCTOR, J.P.

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EXHIBIT No. 23.

DEAR SIR,—

Carterton, 4th December, 1897.

In response to your letter of even date, *re* Mr. Coleman Phillips's statement "That your letters, as Returning Officer, were not considered by the Council as worth answering," I have only to remark that there could be no truth in it, as all letters are answered, and this would more especially apply to letters addressed to us officially by an officer holding your position.

Adam Armstrong, Esq., Carterton.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY R. BUNNY, late Chairman, W.S.C.C.

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EXHIBIT No. 24.

(No. 1321.)

SIR,—

Colonial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 9th December, 1897.

As requested, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Committee, that sixteen Returning Officers fixed Thursday, the 26th November, 1896, as the latest day for receiving nominations of candidates for election as members of the House of Representatives. One Returning Officer (Wairarapa District) fixed Wednesday, the 25th November, 1896, and one (Tuapeka District) fixed Tuesday, the 24th November, 1896.

I have, &c.,  
HUGH POLLEN.

The Chairman, Public Petitions Committee M to Z,  
House of Representatives, Wellington.

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