

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

SIR TIMOTHY COGHLAN

Papers, 1878-1969

Reels M807-M814, M828

**Mr A.F. Coghlan
Ludwell Grange
Horsted Keynes
Haywards Heath West Sussex**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1971-72

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sir Timothy Augustine Coghlan (1855-1926) was born in Sydney, the son of Irish immigrants. He attended the Cleveland Street Public School and Sydney Grammar School. In 1870 he became a pupil-teacher at Fort Street Public School and in 1873 he joined the Department of Public Works. Enjoying the statistical and mathematical aspects of the work, he rose rapidly and by 1884 he was an assistant engineer. He did not, however, aspire to be an engineer and in 1886 he successfully sought the new position of government statistician.

Coghlan held the post for nearly twenty years and was widely recognised as the leading statistician in Australia. He became a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society in 1893. He published the annual *New South Wales Statistical Register* and the *Wealth and Progress of New South Wales*. An ambitious man, he expanded the functions of his office and eagerly accepted commissions from the Government. He advised it on financial, electoral reform and local government matters, he was a member of the Public Service Board from 1896 onwards and was the Registrar of Friendly Societies from 1892 to 1905. He served on a number of royal commissions. He was the obvious choice for the position of Commonwealth Statistician, but he turned down the offer in 1906.

Coghlan visited England in 1897 and investigated the Agent-General's office on behalf of the Public Service Board. In 1905 he accepted the position of acting Agent-General and he lived in England for the rest of his life. He took a strong interest in loan transactions and other financial matters and in the early years was regarded as the general Australian representative in London. This role was taken over by the Australian High Commissioner in 1910 and Coghlan's position later became uncertain. Nevertheless, his appointment as Agent-General was renewed at various times up to 1925. He pursued private business interests and completed his magnum opus, the four volume history, *Labour and industry in Australia* (1918).

Coghlan was knighted in 1914 and created a KCMG in 1918. He married Helena Donnelly in 1897 and they had three children.

The Coghlan Papers were acquired by the National Library of Australia in 1980 (MS 6335).

SIR TIMOTHY COGHLAN

Reel M807

Correspondence

Apart from a few early letters, the correspondence dates from 1890 to 1926. It refers to Coghlan's contributions to the Bulletin, his appointment as New South Wales Statistician, statistical queries, the distribution of statistical publications, staff appointments, Coghlan's appointment to the Public Service Board (1896), the Federal Conventions, Federal revenue, the Imperial Service Order (1903), free trade and protection, Coghlan's appointment as Agent-General in London (1905), Australian literature, the appointment of the first Commonwealth statistician (1906), British immigration to Australia, New South Wales finances, Coghlan's contributions to journals and reference books, the transfer of State debts to the Commonwealth, the 1907 Imperial Conference, Coghlan's knighthood (1914), the 1916 conscription referendum, Coghlan's publications and his business interests.

The correspondents include J.F. Archibald, Sir Henry Parkes, Emily Heron, Henry Hayter, George Dibbs, Sir Thomas McIlwraith, Henry Cargill, Lord Jersey, Sidney Webb, Michael Mulhall, Sir John Forrest, Rose Scott, Richard O'Connor, John See, Alfred Deakin, Lord Beauchamp, Sir Harry Rawson, John Le Gay Brereton, B.R. Wise, Sir Joseph Carruthers, Winston Churchill, William Macleod, Andrew Fisher, Sir Charles Dilke, F.W. Ward, T.W. Heney, Charles Wade, Robert Johnston and Sir George Reid.

Correspondence, 1878-91: 21 letters
Correspondence, 1892-94: 39 letters
Correspondence, 1895-96: 22 letters
Correspondence, 1897-99: 27 letters
Correspondence, 1900-4: 34 letters
Correspondence, 1905-6: 70 letters

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Correspondence, 1905-6: 70 letters (continued)
Correspondence, 1907-8: 39 letters
Correspondence, 1909-10: 24 letters
Correspondence, 1911-14: 28 letters
Correspondence, 1915-19: 27 letters
Correspondence, 1920-26: 34 letters
Correspondence, undated: 28 letters

Letterbooks

Letterbook, 30 March – 30 October 1906 (255pp)

Official and private letters of Coghlan dealing with State debts, New South Wales finances, immigration, trade, Australian social services, the appointment of George Knibbs as Commonwealth Statistician, the 1907 Imperial Conference, the Peel River Company, industrial arbitration, exchange rates, public service appointments, introductions and social events. The recipients include Joseph Carruthers, Alfred Deakin, Sir John Forrest, Andrew Fisher, Nicholas Lockyer, Lord Jersey, Sir Horace Tozer, Sir Charles Dilke, Cecil Coghlan, Winston Churchill and J. Barling.

Letterbook, 18 December 1908 – 17 May 1911 (pp 1-9)

Official and private letters of Coghlan dealing with Australian politics, loan transactions, the transfer of state debts, customs and excise, trade exhibitions, social services, the establishment of the Australian High Commission, the 1910 Federal election, the Pacific Cable Board, Australian literary magazines, and social events. The recipients include Sir Joseph Carruthers, William Macleod, Thomas Waddell, J.W. Holliman, Sir Charles Lucas, Andrew Fisher, Nicholas Lockyer, J.L. Williams, Sir Horace Tozer, Alfred Deakin, Sir Bernard Mallet, Sir George Reid, W. Preedy and D.C. McLachlan.

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Letterbooks

Letterbook, 18 December 1908 – 17 May 1911 (pp 10-510)

Letterbook, 29 June 1911 – 17 June 1915 (pp 1-290)

Official and private letters of Coghlan dealing with financial matters, the Pacific Cable Board, cable rates, negotiations with companies, public service appointments, the Commonwealth Bank, the International Institute of Statistics, Coghlan's knighthood, his future as Agent-General, the outbreak of war, and a proposal to send Belgian women and children to New South Wales. The correspondents include Sir John Forrest, J.W. Holliman, W. Preedy, T.W. Heney, Cecil Coghlan, Sir George Reid, H.S. Gullett, A. Griffith, Robert Johnston, J. Davis, Sir Charles Lucas, Capt. R.M. Collins, B.R. Wise, Louis Harcourt, Sir Robert Nivison, W.A. Holman, J. Leslie Williams and D.C. McLachlan.

The writing in some pages of the letterbook is very faint.

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Letterbooks

Letterbook, 29 June 1911 – 17 June 1915 (pp 291-470)

Invitations and Programs

Invitations and programs, 1888-1902: 34 items

Invitations and programs, 1905-10: 34 items

Invitations and programs, 1911-16: 27 items

Invitations and programs, 1921-25: 19 items

Membership of Clubs and Societies

Institute of Civil Engineers
Public Service Board
Anglo Saxon Club
City Carlton Club
Constitutional Club
Junior Naval and Military Club
Junior United Services Club
Royal Statistical Society

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Honours

Imperial Service Order (1903)
Franco-British Exhibition Commissioner (1908)
KCMG (1918)

Congratulations on Knighthood, 1914

Letters and telegrams congratulating Coghlan on his knighthood, January-April 1914. The correspondents include Robert Johnston (Hobart) and G.A. McKay (Melbourne), but the great majority of letters are from individuals and organisations in the United Kingdom.

Death of Coghlan, 1926

Letters and telegrams to Lady Coghlan concerning the death of her husband, April – May 1926. The correspondents include S.M. Bruce, Sir Joseph Cook and D.C. McLachlan (Melbourne), as well as some relatives and friends of Lady Coghlan in Australia. The majority of letters are from individuals in the United Kingdom.

Miscellaneous papers

Power of attorney from Alfred De Lissa (Sydney) to Coghlan, 21 Feb. 1905
Coghlan's passport, signed by Sir Edward Grey, 1 Aug. 1906
Coghlan's Registration Certificate issued under the 1915 National Registration Act
Extract from the Register of Copyright Proprietors relating to Alfred De Lissa, author of *An Empire league: huc vincit omnia*, 13 Feb. 1905

Papers concerning a process for degreasing wool, including Coghlan's application for a patent (18 July 1921) and the Australian patent granted to Coghlan (20 July 1921).

New South Wales Parliamentary Papers: correspondence between the Attorney-General and Coghlan, 16 Nov. 1899 (4pp) and report by Coghlan on the management of the Agent-General's Department, 29 Nov. 1900. (3pp)
Supplement to the *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 22 April 1904: electorates created under the 1904 Redistribution Act.
Sydney Morning Herald, 2 Jan. 1901. (miniature edition)
Coghlan. Report on the question of European emigration to Australia, 1907. (27pp)

J. Le Gay Brereton. *Oithona*, 1902. (13pp)
Title page of *Poems and essays from the critic*, edited by Coghlan, Redfern Literary Society, 1878.
P.H. Pearse. *The separatist idea*, 1916. (20pp)
James Stephens. *Arthur Griffith, journalist and statesman*, n.d. (28pp)
A.E. [George Russell]. *The inner and the outer Ireland*, 1921. (16pp)
Michael Collins. *Arguments for a Treaty*, n.d. [1922]. (32pp)
Mrs Maxwell Scott. *Thoughts on our Blessed Lady*, n.d. (35pp)

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Miscellaneous papers

Tasmanian Railways. Visitor's free pass, 1890.
Coghlan. Land and income tax proposals.
Telegram Alicujus, 1907.
Notes by Coghlan on back of Lady Coghlan's Harrods invoice.
Note by Coghlan on dividends, 20 July 1917.
Two Christmas/New Year cards.
Typescript note, Friday 14 April.
Cesare lombrosa. Old crimes and modern crimes, dedicated to Coghlan. (manuscript and typescripts)

Coghlan Family Papers

Letters from Coghlan to Helena (Lena) Coghlan, written from London and Matlock, 1910-13. (15 letters)

Letters from Helen Coghlan to Coghlan, written from Romsey, Shawford (Hampshire) and Rome, 1905. (45 letters)

Letters from Helen Coghlan to Coghlan, written from London and Shawford, 1906-9. (37 letters)

Letters from Helen Coghlan to Coghlan, written from London, Sandown (Isle of Wight), Loch Lomond, Eastbourne, Munich, Lake Como, Montreal and Adelaide, 1910-13. (51 letters)

Letters from Lady Coghlan to Coghlan, written from London, Windermere and Dinard (France), 1914-23. (20 letters)

Letters from Lady Coghlan to Coghlan, written from London, Bath, Sandown, Rome and Cannes, undated. (33 letters)

Letters from Coghlan to his daughters Eden and Marjorie, written from London, Paris, Munich and Wildbad (Germany), 1909-10, 1913. (21 letters)

Letters from Coghlan to his son Austin, written from London, 1924-25. (6 letters)

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Coghlan Family Papers

Letters from Helen Coghlan to her daughters Eden and Marjorie, written from London, Folkestone, Paris, Munich and Sydney, 1910-11, 1914. (24 letters)

Letters from Lady Coghlan to her son Austin, written from London and Bath, 1924. (6 letters)

Letter from Eden Coghlan (Eastbourne) to Marjorie Coghlan, n.d.

Letter from Eden Coghlan (Shawford) to 'Auntie', n.d.

Letter from Eden Coghlan to Julia, n.d.

Letters from Eden Coghlan to her parents, written from London, Eastbourne, Sandown, Shawford, Loch Lomond, Paris and Limoges, 1905-21. (82 letters)

Letters from Marjorie Coghlan to her parents, written from London, Sandown, Eastbourne and Belgium, 1906-15. (37 letters)

Letter from Marjorie Coghlan (Exmouth) to Eden Coghlan, n.d.

Letter from Pat (London) to Marjorie Coghlan, n.d.

Letters from Austin Coghlan to his parents, written from Downside School (Bath), Henley and Shanklin (Isle of Wight), 1917-20. (62 letters)

Letters from Austin Coghlan to his parents, written from Downside School, St Moritz and Dinard, 1921-24. (58 letters)

Letters from Austin Coghlan to his parents, written from Downside School, 1925-26. (37 letters)

Letters from Austin Coghlan to his parents, written from Downside School, Shanklin and Dinard, undated. (69 letters)

Letter from Austin Coghlan (Downside School) to Eden Coghlan, 8 Feb. 1918.

Letter from Austin Coghlan (Downside School) to Bill Carslake, 26 Feb. 1926.

Letters from Austin Coghlan (London) to Aunt Ruby, 1947-55. (3 letters)

Letter from Aunt Leila (Perth) to Austin Coghlan, n.d.

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Coghlan Family Papers

Letters from Ruby Coghlan (Sherman, California) to Austin Coghlan, 1954. (2 letters)

Naval message to Lieut. Austin Coghlan, n.d.

Congratulatory telegram to Mrs Coghlan, 1959

Letter from Kreedy (Sydney) to Coghlan, n.d.

'To Pollie on her 32nd birth-day' by R.L., 1881. (verse)

Pensionnat des Dames de l'Assomption. (printed)

Lady Coghlan, visiting cards.

Diary of Helen Coghlan on a visit to the United Kingdom, 1897. The diary commences on 12 June 1897 and describes her travels from Portsmouth to London, Aldershot, Chester, Edinburgh, Obam, Clasgow, Inverness and Loch Lomond.

Transcript of recollections of Sir Timothy Coghlan, recorded by his children Austin Coghlan and Eden Willats, 11 Nov. 1969.

19 school reports of Austin Coghlan, covering his time at 134 Sloane Street, London (1915-16) and Downside School, Bath (1917-23).

Letters from R.S. Trafford (Downside School) to Coghlan and Lady Coghlan, 1922-24. (4 letters)

Miscellaneous papers of Austin Coghlan, mostly from his time at Downside School.

3 school reports of Marjorie Coghlan at the Convent of the Assumption, Kensington, and the Notting Hill and Bayswater High School, 1906, 1909-10.

Children's drawings.

Newspaper cuttings

The earliest cuttings are mostly from Sydney newspapers, particularly the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Bulletin*, and *Evening News*. In general, however, the coverage is quite broad, including cuttings from the *Argus* (Melbourne), *Age* (Melbourne), *Register* (Adelaide), *Advertiser* (Adelaide), *Morning Herald* (Perth). After 1905 the cuttings are mostly from English newspapers, such as the *Times*, *Morning Post*, *Daily Mail*, *Economist*, *Daily Chronicle*, *Daily Graphic*, *Pall Mall Gazette*, *Western Morning News* (Plymouth) and the *Statist*.

The cuttings include many references to Coghlan and reviews of his books and other publications, as well as articles on various subjects that interested him

Newspaper cutting book, c. 1885-99 (22pp)

Newspaper cutting book, mostly undated, 1890s (43pp)

Newspaper cutting book, 1893-1906 (80pp)

Newspaper cutting book, 1890-1920 (67pp)

Newspaper cutting book, 1907-19 (37pp)

Newspaper cutting book, 1905-8 (73pp)

Newspaper cutting book, 1908-12 (54pp)

Loose newspaper cuttings, 1889-1926 (67 items)

Photographs

30 photographs, including portraits of Coghlan, Lady Coghlan and other individuals and some group photographs. They are mostly unidentified, with the exception of:

Photograph of a dinner in honour of Coghlan, Savoy Hotel, London, 10 March 1925.

Photographs (6) of the construction of the city railway, Sydney, at Belmore Park and Hyde Park, 24 April 1922.

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Album of photographs of 54 criminals, born between 1833 and 1887, who were convicted in New South Wales, with details of their convictions extending to 1906. They include both men and women. There are two photographs for each individual, one a frontal view, the other a side view.

For most of the criminals the following details are given: aliases, place of birth, year of birth, trade, religion, education (literacy), height, colour of hair, colour of eyes, distinguishing features, convictions and sentences. (Several were executed.) In some cases, there are also notes about their behaviour and sanity.