

the anticipation that at no distant time Western Australia may, like her sister colonies, go forward, leaning upon no other aid than that of the efforts of her own colonists and the help of Divine Providence.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved the adoption of the reply, which was seconded by Mr. STEERE.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 9.50 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Thursday, 1st August, 1872.

Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—Ballarat Timber Company—Arrangement of the House—Standing Orders.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.
PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER informed the Council that the Address to His Excellency the Governor, adopted yesterday, had been presented in accordance with the resolution of the House.

BALLARAT TIMBER COMPANY.

Mr. NEWMAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House, as early as possible, the agreement and all correspondence with the Ballarat Timber Company.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) notified that the agreement and all correspondence between the Government and the Ballarat Timber Company were lying at his office, and were open for the inspection of hon. members. The correspondence was so voluminous that when once seen, he thought that the hon. member for Fremantle would not press that a copy be laid on the table.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. BICKLEY, in accordance with notice, moved for a committee consisting of Mr. Carr, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Monger, Mr. Marmion, and the Mover to be appointed to consider the question of the better arrangement of the House, with a view to members sitting in a more compact body.

After some debate a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes 13

Noes 4

Majority for 9

Ayes.	Noes.
The Hon. R. J. Walcott	Mr. Steere
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Logue
Mr. Bickley	Mr. Hassell
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Carr (Teller.)
Mr. Russell	
Mr. Monger	
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Carey	
Mr. Brockman	
Mr. Pearse	
Mr. Newman	
Mr. Drummond	
The Hon. F. P. Barlee	
(Teller.)	

Question thus passed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved for certain alterations in the Standing Orders of this House, and the following amendments:—In Section 2, and line 3, to strike out the word "six," and insert the word "eight" instead thereof. Section 3, and line 3, to strike out all the words between "present" and "Members," and to insert the word "eight" instead thereof. Section 9, at the end of the first line, after the word "shall," to insert "if directed by the Speaker." Section 47, and line 2, to strike out the words between "if" and "the," and to insert instead thereof "within two hours after the meeting of Council." Section 69,—To omit all the words as far as the word "such," in line 2, and to insert the following words instead thereof:—"That upon any motion for a Select Committee, it shall be competent for any Member to move as an amendment that such Committee be appointed by ballot; and the question shall then be put to the House, and if resolved in the affirmative," And that the same be taken into consideration on Tuesday, 6th August.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 1 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Friday, 2nd August, 1872.

Election Petition—Immigration—Trespass by Live Stock: select committee—Correspondence with Magistrates—Financial Statement: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.
PRAYERS.

ELECTION PETITION.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) moved that the petition of Henry Gray, against the return of Mr. Shenton, be referred to His Honor the Chief Justice.

The motion was seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee).

Question put and passed.

IMMIGRATION.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved for a copy of the report of immigration to the colony, drawn up by a committee of the late Legislative Council, in July, 1868, to be laid on the Table of the House.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid upon the table the report moved for and also an extract of a despatch from the Secretary of State to Governor Fitzgerald, dated the 12th July, 1849, and also an extract of despatch No. 2, of the 25th January, 1856, from the Secretary of State to Governor Kennedy.

TRESPASS BY LIVE STOCK

Select Committee.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved for a select committee to consolidate and amend the laws relating to trespass by live stock, and that such committee consist of the Attorney General (Hon. R. J. Walcott), Mr. Logue, Mr. Brockman, Mr. Drummond, and the Mover.

Question put and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH
MAGISTRATES.

Mr. BROCKMAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the correspondence between the Government and the magistrates who sat on the bench at the hearing of the case against Mr. Lockier Clare Burges.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) agreed to the request and said he had been somewhat at a loss to know whether the hon. member alluded to the correspondence that had taken place between the Government and the official magistrate, or merely to the correspondence which had occurred between the Government and the honorary magistrates. With regard to the former, His Excellency was precluded by Colonial Instructions from producing the correspondence while the matter was *sub judice*. It was the desire of the Government that there

should be nothing concealed with regard to this altogether unhappy matter, and when the decision of the Secretary of State had been received, no time would be lost in having all the correspondence which had been written, as well as His Excellency's despatch to the Secretary of State and that official's reply, printed as a Council paper, a copy of which would be forwarded to every hon. member. With reference to the correspondence which had passed between the Government and the honorary magistrates no objection existed in regard to its being laid on the Table of the House, where he would now place it.

Mr. BROCKMAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the correspondence with the resident magistrates on the subject of paying periodical visits to the out-portions of their districts, with a view of holding Petty Sessions in centres of population; and a return of the number of visits paid by each resident since the regulation came in force.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in placing on the table a copy of the circular letter which was written to the resident magistrates at the request of the hon. member, together with the replies of the residents throughout the colony, and the official instructions issued to them in answer to those replies, said that he was not in a position to furnish a detailed return of the number of visits paid by the resident magistrates since the instructions were issued. If, however, it was the hon. member's wish, such a return would be called for, but some time would necessarily elapse before it could be prepared. When the hon. member saw the answers that had been received from the resident magistrates and the official instructions sent them, he thought the hon. member would be satisfied. If not, the return he asked for should be called for.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

In Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in moving that the Council do then resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration questions of finance connected with the services for the current year and the year 1873, said—Mr. Chairman, 12 months have elapsed since I stood here to submit to a Council—the members of which have but little changed, though a general election has taken place in the interim—to submit what I may call a financial statement of colonial affairs. The year that has elapsed since

that occasion, Sir, has not been an uneventful one in the annals of the colony; it has been in many ways a strange and eventful year, characterised by almost unprecedented occurrences of an evil tendency, at a time when many interests were in a depressed state, consequent upon a succession of unfavorable seasons. It has proved that the colony, visited as it has been with severe losses by floods, by hurricanes, and by partial destruction of crops, has yet held up its head, that its funds have not deteriorated to the extent that might fairly have been anticipated, that the prognostications of those who predicted that another bad season would prove the ruin of many, have happily not been realised. But notwithstanding these misfortunes, it is a source of satisfaction to me, and I am sure, Sir, that it is an equal source of gratification to every hon. member of this House, that under the blessing of Divine Providence, the evils with which we have been afflicted have been partly alleviated by the success that has attended the working of other interests and other resources of the colony. Had it not been for these alleviations it would not have been matter for wonder, Sir, if many colonists had succumbed to misfortunes which would otherwise have been of an almost overwhelming nature. If the crops have partially failed, and the return was not so much as was expected, if the hopes of our farmers have not been altogether realised, the current year has been an unmistakeably good one for stock; the price of wool has increased, the sandalwood trade, fortunately for the smaller farmers, revived; our pearl-shell fisheries have given an outlet for small capitalists; there is a prospect of considerable business in our mineral districts; and notwithstanding all that has been said about the falling off of our timber trade, I do not believe such will permanently be the case; and, Sir much as the qualities of our jarrah timber have been vaunted, I think we have yet another species of timber that is likely to take as high, if not a higher place among timber used for ship-building purposes. I allude to our karri timber. In a recent despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which it is stated that there is no great probability that jarrah timber will be largely employed for ship-building in England, information is sought as to the qualities of the karri, and specimens are requested. As early as possible arrangements will be made for complying with that request, and I trust that the result will prove satisfactory. Sir, it has been my wish to submit to the hon. members of this House at as early a stage as possible after their assembly, an outline of the policy which it is proposed by the Govern-

ment to bring forward for their consideration, and I have fixed this early date that hon. members may have ample time and opportunity to consider the various measures that it will be my duty this evening to draw their attention to, before they are asked to discuss them in detail. In doing this, Sir, I may be permitted to express a hope—a hope, Sir, which I am sure will be re-echoed by every member in this House that our deliberations may, under the blessing of Providence, result in our arriving at something like a unanimous conclusion to carry into effect that which shall be for the material progress of the colony. (Hear, hear.) I cannot shut my ears, and I am sure hon. members have not shut theirs, to the complaints that have been made and reiterated, that time is not afforded to hon. members here, and to the Western Australian world outside, to consider the measures propounded by the Government, and that all measures to be introduced by the Government should be put forward sometime before the assembling of the Council, in order that the public may have time fully to consider and make up their minds thereon, and, I can only assume, instruct their representatives. Those who advocate such a course of procedure on the part of the Government of this colony cannot be aware of the principles which govern Representative Assemblies; or, if aware of them, must be wilfully misrepresenting them. In a country carried on by party Government the Minister who would place his measures before the public for discussion outside prior to the meeting of Parliament would simply be placing weapons in the hand of his opponents, wherewith to destroy those measures. I can quite understand a Minister feeling it to be necessary and advisable to consult the country and to endeavor to lead and often to follow public opinion as to the nature of the measures which may be deemed necessary for the general weal, but to submit the details of such measures for the discussion of a Parliament out of doors would be simply defeating the objects in view. Well, Sir, India has been specially alluded to by the advocates of the course referred to. I would ask hon. members to consider whether there is really any analogy at all between India and England or India and this colony; India, with its enormous extent of territory and population, composed of different nations, different classes, different languages, and different manners. In such a country, where interests are so diversified, if not antagonistic, it is but natural that the Government, when proposing to introduce measures having for their object the taxation, or otherwise affecting the interests of almost countless numbers of

people, should naturally deem it necessary to consult the feelings of the country in regard to the provisions of such measures, and feel their way before such measures are put into operation. Further, it must be remembered that there is little or no real representation in the Council of India, where the laws enacted are more in the nature of edicts issued by the Governor General in Council. But to return to Western Australia. Here, we have no party Government, but we have a representative form of Government, and each district sends its representative to the Council. It would, I take it, be an insult to the gentlemen here assembled if those measures which it is my intention, on behalf of the Government, to place before them tonight for their consideration as the representatives of the people, had been submitted before the late elections to the people, who might then have sent, not representatives, but delegates, pledged not alone to particular measures,—for that may be proper and essential,—but to the very details of those measures, which cannot be essential, and which, in my humble opinion, would be very improper. But I would ask, Sir, has there really been that ignorance on the part of the public as to the line of policy proposed to be adopted by the Government as the advocates of the course alluded to desire to make out? I do not think so. Few, if any, of the measures alluded to in His Excellency's Address at the opening of this session fell unexpectedly on the ears of the members of this House. It was perfectly well known that the Government had in contemplation the introduction of a Loan Bill, the details of which had already been made public. Was it not known that the Government had taken considerable interest in the question of steam communication along our coasts? Was it not also known that it was contemplated to introduce an amended Publicans' Bill? Surely no secret had been made of this fact. I have myself on various occasions alluded to it in several districts of the colony. Was it not generally known that a revision of the tariff was in contemplation? In fact nearly the whole of those measures proposed to be introduced by the Government, were known to the outside public, and there has been no secret in regard to them. The time has now arrived for hon. members to take those several measures into their careful consideration, but I should very much regret if the details of these measures had been themes for outside discussion, or that hon. members should not approach that discussion with minds unbiased by prejudice outside, or pressure from their constituents. Sir, the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of the opening

of this Council the other day entered so fully into the principles that guided his policy in the framing of the several measures to be brought before the House that I am relieved from troubling the House at any length on this point. But I may, in a few words, state that the Governor being of opinion that all purely political questions of a pressing nature having been disposed of; that no immediate action being needed in regard to matters of local self government, such as roads boards, municipalities, and such like institutions; that the vexed questions connected with ecclesiastical matters and educational grants having been placed on a direct footing, he thought it wise to endeavor to direct the attention of the Council to those points on which the future progress and prosperity of the colony must materially depend. In considering these important matters, the Government has endeavored to look steadily ahead at the one object to be gained, to turn neither to the right hand nor to the left, to keep in view the wants of the colony at large, without considering those of any district in particular, and in this view, it is my duty this evening to place before the House a programme, plain and straight-forward, but of a steadily progressive nature, which, if carried into operation, will, I am convinced, bring returns of a remunerative nature, and not have the effect of plunging the colony so far into debt as to render the payment of that debt, or the annual interest for it, an undue burden on the taxpayer. First of all, Sir, I come to the question of a public loan, of which we have heard so much of late; this loan of £35,000, Sir, which the Secretary of State has authorised the Governor to initiate immediately it receives the concurrence of this House if it be passed without alteration of the items as laid before the House. At first sight it may appear that the terms on which the Imperial Government have sanctioned the introduction of this Bill leave hon. members little or no opportunity for discussion in regard to it, but when one takes a further opportunity of examining the matter, a different view is presented to us. In the first place it must be borne in mind that nearly every item contained in the scheme of public works embodied in the Bill has already been under the consideration of this Council, and adopted by it. On that occasion the item which caused the greatest amount of discussion was the jetty—I suppose I may call it the unfortunate jetty at Fremantle, which is now, Sir, a thing of the past. I was down at Fremantle the other day, watching its remains, and they appeared to me as the remains of some enormous animal, whose body had been severed from its head and tail, but

in whose quivering extremities there still remained some muscular action. This Council, Sir, will have to constitute itself into a medical faculty, and hold a consultation over the remains of that unfortunate animal. We shall have to consider whether it will be best to add a new body to the old head, or simply endeavour to gather the *disjecta membra* of the old jetty, and connect them together for temporary purposes, or whether it will be advisable to construct a new structure altogether at some other point. It is fortunate perhaps that the sum of £8,000 remains on this Loan Bill, because it will enable steps to be taken without delay to do what is needed and what may be decided on, and I am permitted to state in regard to this sum that though it must remain on the Bill if the Bill is to become law, still it will only be expended on the jetty in such manner as may be concurred in by this Council, or if preferred by the Council, not raised or expended at all. The Government, at any rate, have not been idle with regard to this jetty question. They have already taken steps for temporarily connecting the two extremities of the old jetty by means of a narrow tramway, and in the course of a few days the work of loading and unloading will be no further delayed. The Government, or rather a member of the Government has not been idle with regard to another matter connected with jetty accommodation. My hon. friend the Attorney General (laughter)—I beg his pardon, I mean my friend the hon. the Surveyor General; when I come to agricultural matters I will then allude to my friend the Attorney General (renewed laughter);—the Surveyor General has prepared plans of a proposed jetty to start from Anglesea-point, which I think, on account of its simplicity, the accommodation it will afford and the depth of water into which it will run, will recommend itself to the favor of hon. members. From figures that have been placed before me in connection with these plans I am happy to be able to add that the jetty alluded to may be constructed with the amount now allotted for jetty improvements in the Loan Bill sanctioned by the Secretary of State. I have reason to know that there is an opinion prevalent that such a work as this should, if possible, be constructed by contract (hear, hear,) and I have further reason to know that there are several firms in the colony who would undertake the construction of a jetty as proposed by the hon. the Surveyor General, and have it completed in the course of a few months. In connection with this question of jetty accommodation there are several other matters closely allied, and with regard to which several plans have been submitted to the Government

for the consideration of this Council. I allude to the subject of harbor improvements and proposed breakwater. First of all, I have the pleasure of calling the attention of hon. members to the miniature structure that lies on the table before them, planned and constructed by a very good friend of mine, Mr. Chidlow of Northam, who, I believe, is under the impression that it is the very best plan that could possibly be had for effecting what harbor improvements we require. There it stands, Sir, I will not say in all its grandeur, but I may fairly say in all its simplicity, and hon. members will not fail to bear in mind that the greatest conceptions are often the simplest in design. The only information that I possess in regard to it is addressed by the inventor to the *Inquirer* newspaper, from which, with the assistance of the Clerk of Works, I gather that the piles necessary for the construction of Mr. Chidlow's proposed breakwater will cost £21,667, and the quantity of material that will be required to fill the Interstices will be 226,436 cubic yards. Beyond that, I have no other information. No doubt the plan is an exceedingly clever and ingenious one, and I wish Mr. Chidlow was here to explain it. In addition to this, I have to place on the table another plan, made by Mr. Nunan of Perth, which is accompanied by an explanatory letter which will furnish hon. members with more lucid information than I could possibly hope to afford them. There is also a plan submitted by Mr. George Randell, which is also accompanied by a descriptive letter which I place on the table for the information of the House. I have here a very ingenious letter from Mr. W. H. Knight, explanatory of his views in regard of a breakwater. It is not for the Government to recommend for adoption any of these plans; the proposal which I have the honor of submitting for the approval of the House is that of the hon. the Surveyor General; all other plans to which allusion has been made must be considered *per se*, as works of greater magnitude. Passing on from the question of jetty accommodation, I come to another matter connected with the Loan Bill—the purchase of the telegraph lines. I am not going to allude to anything that transpired at a previous session, but will content myself by merely alluding to the fact that the scheme was adopted by the late Council, and was consequently embodied in the Loan Bill. I simply allude to the subject for the purpose of informing the House that the Directors of the Electro Magnetic Telegraph Company have suggested to the Government the desirability of extending the existing telegraph lines as far as Champion Bay. The Government have replied that they

are quite prepared to adopt the suggestion, provided this House will vote the necessary sum for the payment of additional interest on debentures. I can quite understand an objection being raised against any proposed increase of taxation; but in all matters of that kind we have to look whether the fiscal burden is likely to prove remunerative in the end; whether, in fact, the work which necessitates the increase of taxation will ultimately prove reproductive. My own opinion is, that the suggestion of the directors in regard to the extension of the lines is a very wise one, tending, as it does, to bring the colony more together as a unit, instead of a number of separate districts, with somewhat antagonistic views; it will simplify business, save public expenditure in various ways, and it is a course tending to that progress we hope to see, and which in the event of any movement at the mines would become a necessity. Another argument may be adduced in favor of the extension. It gives an important New Zealand firm a large interest in the colony, inasmuch as an offer is made to complete the work and receive payment in debentures alone. It appears to me that this importation of foreign capital is just what we require. The Attorney General in his speech the other day very truly observed that the three great wants of the colony were capital, capital, capital. If foreign capitalists could be induced to come amongst us and undertake works which prove remunerative to them, and I may add to us also, they might reasonably be expected to turn their attention to other undertakings; and once it was discovered that the colony offered a fair field for enterprise and investment, we would soon find ourselves on the high road to advancement and prosperity. If my own wishes were consulted in the matter of telegraph extension, I would even go further than the proposal of the directors, and extend the line from Champion Bay to Northampton, and from Bunbury to the Vasse, and thus ensure direct communication between all the principal towns, those towns that we hope by and by will be the great centres of population; communicating, not alone with Perth or Fremantle, but with each other. That these two small extensions are mere matters of form, I have little doubt. Sir, I now come to a matter which has already been alluded to in this House. Provision is made in the Loan Bill to survey a line of railway from Champion Bay to the mines, a work that may be considered worth undertaking even as a speculative inducement to capitalists. Knowing, Sir, that there is a strong and a growing feeling of interest felt not only in England but in the other colonies in regard to

our mines, the Government has thought it but right that we should do all in our power to encourage the development of our mineral resources, by affording increased facilities for the transport of ore and by every other legitimate means within our power. I am not at present going to enter into any details with regard to the question of railways, but I shall place on the table for the consideration of hon. members a paper connected with a proposition made to the Government by a gentleman now in this country, representing an eminent firm in another colony, to construct a line of railway from Geraldton to the mines, on terms which appear to me as fair and liberal as we are likely to obtain. I do not, however, recommend its adoption without very careful consideration. I have also to lay on the table plans showing the various practicable routes in regard to a line of railway in the district alluded to, which have been procured under the instruction, of the hon. the Surveyor General, as also the information alluded to in His Excellency's Speech regarding a railway to the eastern districts, prepared by the select committee appointed for that purpose at the last session of this Council. One other point I will allude to, and that is that it will be a question for consideration, in the event of any line of railway being definitely decided on, whether the taxation for the expenditure in connection with it should be borne by the whole community, or chiefly by that portion which most benefits by the work. Sir, reverting again to the Loan Bill, I do so with the object of strongly recommending its adoption by the House. I do so on various grounds, to which I will very cursorily allude. The passing of this Loan Bill need not, as some people imagine, preclude this Council from the consideration of further public works, or even taking action in regard to another loan. The initiation of the present loan depends entirely upon this House, and another strong reason which I would urge in favor of its adoption is the probability that the whole amount can be conveniently raised within the colony; indeed, I should be very sorry to go outside it for so small a loan, and, if the Council so pleases, the Government can be at once placed in a position to commence those works proposed and adopted by this House at the last session, and in regard to the propriety of which no difference of opinion exists. It appears to me that it is very desirable that no time should be lost in the inauguration of public works in this colony, for although the colony generally may be said to be in a sound financial position, it cannot be denied that a considerable amount of depression has existed among certain classes of the community who would be

greatly benefitted by the introduction of capital and its expenditure upon public works. I think there never was a time in the history of the colony when the circulation of a few thousand pounds among the laboring classes, the tradesmen, and the general population would cause such beneficial results. It seems to me that the moment has arrived when with the assistance of a little capital the colony may be aided to give effect to that turn from depression to a more happy state of which there are so many signs at the present time, and which it can but be desirable to foster. There are many people not only among ourselves but outside the colony who are only waiting for us to take a forward step before they join us, and who will say, "Well, the colony is going ahead at last, and we need not hold back any longer." In addition to the works embodied in the scheme contained in the Loan Bill, there are others which have been mooted, and which I may almost term gigantic. With regard to these I will only venture to say one word of counsel, and I trust that the counsel will be appreciated. I will, in fact, confine myself to four words—"Look before you leap." Let us count the cost of any work before we decide to undertake it; let us know not only the immediate outlay, but the annual outlay that we shall have to provide for years and years to come, and if after the mature consideration of this Council it can place before the colony such statistics as will undoubtedly show that notwithstanding the amount of first outlay and subsequent outlay a reasonable return may be anticipated, then I am sure no one in the colony, no member of this House, or no member of the Government, will throw any obstacle in the way of prosecuting such a work. Sir, I now come to the question of coast survey, in connection with which I may state that it is proposed to place on the Estimates for 1873 a sum of £1,000 for improvements connected with the navigation of Challenger Passage. It is difficult at present to say exactly what is necessary to be done to this passage, and consequently what the cost of the improvements may be, but the Government has been in communication with persons likely to be conversant with the matter, and the correspondence, Sir, is now placed on the table for the information of the House, so that hon. members may approach the consideration of the subject with some knowledge of it. My reason for alluding to the Challenger Passage at this present stage is that there is a sum placed in the Loan Bill for coast surveys, and as Her Majesty's Government have sent a gentleman to the colony capable of conducting the survey of our coasts it is proposed, in the event of the adoption of the Loan Bill that the first work he shall be

employed upon shall be the examination of Challenger Passage, with the view of reporting on the improvements that may be deemed necessary. There are many reasons why it is desirable that these improvements should be effected. In the first place, though it is one upon which no stress may be laid, the vessels of the Rockingham Jarrah Timber Company will have to pass through that channel. In the next place, and what is of far greater importance to this colony, it is well known that the expiration of the period of contract of the Peninsular and Oriental Mail Company is drawing to a close. It is also known that the company has been desirous, for some time past, of procuring steamers capable of carrying a sufficient quantity of coals to enable them to perform the passage from Galle to Sydney without calling at any intermediate port. In this, however, they have hitherto failed, but from negotiations which have hitherto taken place I am in a position to say that if a favorable port of call could be found in this colony at some nearer spot to Galle than Albany, and where vessels could lie in safety at all seasons of the year, it is not improbable that the P. & O. Company would be inclined to avail themselves of such a port. It is, of course, possible that the Peninsular and Oriental Company may not again have the mail contract, as I know there are other companies trying to cut them out. It may be that companies formed in Sydney or Melbourne may obtain the contract for the Australian mail service, or the Messageries Imperial, a French company who, I believe, are also thinking of competing with the present mail contractors. But whichever company may obtain the contract, if we can show that the mail steamers may safely call at the principal port of our colony we should do our utmost to induce them to do so. While on this subject I may state to the House that the Government have been in communication with the Secretary of State with regard to the possibility of this colony being altogether overlooked in any re-adjustment of the mail service, and that we have the gratifying assurance on the part of the Home Government that whatever arrangements may be made the interest and the claims of Western Australia shall not be overlooked. (Hear, hear.) I come next, sir, to the question of steam communication along our coast. The desire of the Government in regard to the obtaining of this boon is perfectly well known, looking, as they do, on it as one of the most important that we could procure. It will be in the recollection of hon. members that at the last session a certain sum was placed at the disposal of the Government for this purpose, and I was at that time exceedingly sanguine that the sum then voted

would have enabled us to obtain steam communication on our coast. But I regret to say that my hopes have not been realised, and that circumstances to which I need not now allude precluded the Government from carrying out the arrangements which were then contemplated. There is, I am sure, an almost unanimous desire on the part of hon. members that steam communication should be established along our coast, so long as it can be done at a reasonable cost. It is therefore very gratifying to me to be able to submit to the House a proposal emanating from Messrs. Connor and McKay, of New Zealand, who agree to supply this want, upon payment of the sum of £4,000 per annum. I believe, myself, that the services which the company will render will be most advantageous, and I think the subsidy asked for is proportionately moderate. When the proper time comes for entering more fully into this subject I shall be enabled to show that out of that sum one-third can be saved in other ways, which will enable us to carry out the matter at an annual cost of little in excess of that authorised last session. In laying the proposal on the Table of the House I will say no more than that I recommend it to the favorable consideration of hon. members, and that the sum of £4,000 has been placed on the Estimates under the belief that the proposal will be accepted. Hon. members will not fail to notice that provision is made in the contract for its revision on equitable terms in the event of the P. & O. steamers ceasing to call at Albany. I next come to the subject of immigration, with regard to which the hon. member for Wellington has already moved for papers. I am afraid that those papers and the other correspondence which has taken place between the local and Imperial Governments on the question will prove to hon. members that there is but very little hope to be entertained of our deriving any aid from Home with regard to immigration. As far as I can see, the Imperial authorities have made up their mind to send no more immigrants to these shores. Of course I cannot positively assert this to be the case; I merely form my own opinion from the tone and tenor of the correspondence that has passed between this Government and the Secretary of State on the subject. It seems to me then that either we must depend for the augmentation of our population upon the natural law of increase, or take such steps ourselves as will tend to divert a tributary of the stream of immigration to our shores. During the last session when remodelling our Land Regulations some inducements to that end were offered, and it is possible that not sufficient time has yet elapsed to test the effect of those

inducements. But I am very much afraid that some further efforts will have to be made to induce immigration to this colony. With this end in view, a further sum of £750 has been placed on the Estimates, which if found successful may be increased next year. It will be in the recollection of hon. members that a short time ago a deputation, appointed at a public meeting of colonists, and of which the hon. member for Toodyay was the spokesman, waited upon His Excellency the Governor with reference to the question of immigration. The desire of the deputation was to call the attention of His Excellency to the alleged breach of contract on the part of the Home Government in regard to sending out as a counterpoise to the convict element an equal number of free immigrants. His Excellency failed to discover among the records of his office any reference to distinct compact or agreement between the Home Government and this colony, and read to the deputation the very despatch referred to in a local journal as bearing upon the question of a contract. In addition to the papers moved for by the hon. member for Wellington, I have also to lay on the table a correspondence which has recently passed between a Mr. Segerbergh relative to his plan with regard to the introduction of Scandinavian immigrants to the colony. The proposal of this gentleman is on a very large scale, and the probability of its coming to maturity is yet very uncertain; at all events, as it involves large grants of land and other matters, it will have to come under the review of the Home authorities and of this House. I now, sir, come to the question of gold prospecting, to which reference has already been made. It is not proposed by the Government that any regular system of search should be made, but it is believed that, as there are several private individuals in the colony who are exceedingly anxious to see what can be done in the way of prospecting for the precious metal, the expenses of such a search should not be thrown entirely upon private enterprise. When Commodore Stirling was here, in the *Clio*, a short time ago, he kindly volunteered, if the Government would procure specimens of quartz to convey them for assay to Sydney. Unfortunately the *Clio* left before any but a few surface specimens were hastily collected, but even these were found to contain traces of gold. Two or three days after the departure of the *Clio* other and probably richer specimens were forwarded to the Government from Champion Bay and elsewhere; but from the absence of steam communication even to Albany all the specimens still remain in Perth, no opportunity of transit having offered for Sydney since the

departure of the *Clío*. With the view of impressing upon the minds of hon. members the importance of encouraging the development of gold mining I have only to refer to the colony of New South Wales. Sydney, I believe, was discovered very nearly a hundred years ago, but until very recently, though geologists had reported favorably on the auriferous nature of a large portion of the Sydney territory that gold was not discovered. A short time ago an impetus was given to prospecting from the reports of reliable geologists and the result has been the discovery that the country abounds not only in gold but in other valuable metals. Twelve months ago there was no outlet for capital in the colony; everything was in a depressed state, but within the short space of 12 revolving moons the change has been marvellous. At the present time there are in New South Wales no less than 321 gold mines with a subscribed capital of £1,059,502; 18 copper mines with a subscribed capital of £460,340; 21 tin mines with a subscribed capital of £279,000! Surely this is some inducement for us to try what we can do in the same direction. We have it on the authority of the Government Geologist, who is now engaged on his general report, that several parts of the colony present unmistakable indications of the existence of gold, and if we only take the same trouble to discover the precious metal as is done elsewhere, possibly, probably, I will not say certainly, we may meet with some reward. Nothing, at any rate, will change my opinion as to the fact of our colony being auriferous. I feel strongly on this point, and though I know it is not in our power to command success, I sometimes feel that we really do not deserve it, and that there is really too much justice in the taunt that we are too apathetic; and though even if the Council vote the sum asked, and we may not succeed, we shall have the satisfaction of feeling that such want of success is in no way attributable to our want of energy in doing what has been done in every other Australian colony at a far greater cost than is now proposed by the Government. The step contemplated need in no way militate against that suggested by the hon. member for Wellington, to which I shall be glad to accord my support. Sir, it was the intention of the Government to have submitted a comprehensive measure for the better government of the northern district of the colony, and the regulation of its sea industries. The measure had for its object the administration of justice, the more effectual protection of the Aborigines, regulations affecting the employment of Malays, the payment of officers, the efficiency of police, and various other matters connected with the

administration of affairs on the northwest coast. A legal difficulty, however, arose on a question of international law, and the Government are compelled, at present, to defer making propositions upon a subject which has occupied their serious attention. I am, however, glad to be able to inform hon. members that arrangements have been made so that the resident magistrate will be present at the pearling ground during the fishing season. It may be necessary, as His Excellency has stated in his Speech, to convene a special meeting of this Council to consider this measure at a later period of the year. I have alluded to this question because on the Estimates it will be found that matters are left *statu quo*, and though the proposed suggestions will entail a considerable outlay, a corresponding revenue will be derived from more than one source, which I need not trouble the Council to discuss. It is proposed to give a member of the Legislature to the district, which appears to me to have special claims to a representative.

Mr. Logue: So it has.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) I quite concur with the hon. member, but the proposition is to give it a special representative, and I am glad to understand that no difficulty is likely to arise as to the securing of a member to represent the district, remote as it is. Sir, before proceeding to make any further allusion to the Estimates—at which I have as yet but glanced—I will, with the indulgence of the House, make a short digression with regard to a statement that has been made as to the cost of Government in this colony. If I mistake not an hon. gentleman here present, when addressing his constituents made a remark to the effect that five-ninths of the whole revenue of the colony was expended in salaries for the administration of the Government. Now, Sir, when I read that statement I must confess I was fairly startled. Well, I thought, that is certainly a very large proportion; I wonder can it be true. I immediately proceeded to calculate whether such was really the case, and soon discovered that, to my mind, there was no great cause for alarm. I think, Sir, I should not be doing right to allow such statements to go forth unchallenged, and though I entirely divest myself of any personal feeling in the matter, I must ask the consideration of the House, while I show that there is another side of the question. I do not exactly know what would be a fair per centage in a private establishment for the cost of administration, but I take it I shall not make an egregious blunder if I fix an expenditure of 10 per cent. as a

reasonable amount. Perhaps I may state more clearly what I mean by stating that in an establishment which turned over £3,000 annually, £300 of that sum would not be out of the way for administering the affairs of such a firm. Having said that, Sir, I am prepared to aver that the cost of the administration of the affairs of this colony is not more than 10 per cent. I am perfectly aware that public expenditure should be expended for public services alone, and that in dealing with the revenue of a colony nothing should be spent in administration of salaries beyond what is absolutely necessary for the efficiency of the Public Service, in other words, we should not keep more cats than can kill mice. Let us see how we stand. The gross expenditure for the year 1871 amounted, in round numbers, to £180,000, of which £33,000 went to what I call protection, that is matters connected with gaols and police, and that magisterial expenditure which is almost entirely necessitated by the peculiar circumstances of a penal colony, and more than half of which is borne by Imperial funds. I do not think that item can be fairly looked upon as departmental expenditure. Then, again, there was £9,000 expended in the postal and telegraphic departments; £8,300 for educational and religious aid; £17,000 in roads and public works; £9,500 in surveys and harbor services; £5,600 in charitable institutions; £3,500 in hospitals; £1,000 in the inspection of sheep; and £7,000 in connection with the geological department and miscellaneous services which, I pledge myself, cannot possibly be considered as administrative expenditure. This makes a total of £94,100, leaving £13,900 to be yet accounted for. Out of that sum a little less than £11,000 was spent in salaries, and the remaining £3,000 was expended in connection with services, more than half the expenses of which will be returned in the shape of postage. Out of this £11,000 there is the entire Civil List, which includes the Governor's salary, and also that of the Chief Justice, my two hon. friends on the left—the Attorney General and the Surveyor General,—the Treasurer, and my own. In addition to these there is the cost of my own department, that of the Auditor General, Registry, Printing, and Customs Departments. These are what I conceive comprise the actual administration of the colony, and the expenditure in connection with them does not exceed 10 per cent of the revenue. I would not have alluded to this matter at all did I not feel that, when statements are made reflecting on the administration of the Government, it is only fair that when an opportunity offers I should not exactly combat what is said, but merely

show that there is another side to the question. I have taken the trouble, in addition to this, to look very closely at the expenditure of a great many other colonies, and I venture to say, and I cannot be fairly contradicted, that the cost of the administration of this colony, putting aside our peculiar circumstances is not extravagant, but is in many ways, in fact, less than the expenditure of other colonies with less means, to which I could draw attention. Having said this, I shall now return to the more immediate object of my speech. It is not my intention, Sir, to lay the Estimates on the table to-night, and I will give hon. members a good and sufficient reason why. The Estimates have been framed on the supposition that the various matters to which I have alluded to this evening will be affirmed by this House; if they are not so affirmed it would be simply nonsense to place the Estimates on the table. They are framed, Sir, on the supposition that the Loan Bill will be passed and that provision will be made for the payment of interest, and other matters connected with it. They are framed on the supposition, too, that the amended tariff to which I have not yet alluded, but which it will be my duty to submit to the House before I resume my seat, will be adopted. They are framed on the supposition that the subsidy required to establish steam communication along our coast will be voted; that a moderate vote for gold prospecting and testing our extensive quartz reefs will be granted; and that a slight increase of taxation will also be adopted. When these questions are decided, and decided as I hope they will be, in the affirmative, there shall be no delay in placing the Estimates on the table of the House. But, in order that there may be no misunderstanding on the part of hon. members, I will offer a few observations in regard to the Estimates which I think will place matters in as clear a light as if they had them before them. Sir, the total expenditure estimated for the current year, 1872 is £98,036; the total estimated expenditure for 1873, supposing that the governmental measures to which I have alluded be affirmed, is £105,842. Notwithstanding this increase the aggregate amount of the salaries to be paid during the ensuing year is actually less than the amount paid in 1872, and the Government only propose two slight increases in the salaries of officials, namely, an extra £50 for the Postmaster General, who, in addition to his other departmental duties, has now assumed the entire responsibility and control of the telegraph department; and another £50 increase for the Government Printer, than whom, Sir, I undertake to say, there is not a more underpaid official in the

colony, nor one who discharges his duties more efficiently. The Geological Department will be withdrawn altogether. The engagement of Mr. Brown terminates at the end of the present month, when his general report will be ready, and his services will cease. There will be a trifling increase in the Pension List, necessitated by the retirement of the Colonial Surgeon, who will be entitled to a pension of £216; and the retirement, also, of Mr. Viveash, the late resident magistrate for the Swan District, who becomes entitled to £104; and lastly by the retirement of the lighthouse keeper at Fremantle, who will be entitled to a pension of £27. I am glad to be able to propose an additional sum of £1,000 towards the maintenance of roads. For the establishment of steam communication a subsidy of £4,000 is proposed; for gold prospecting £750, and the same amount for immigration purposes. For the improvement of the navigation of Challenger Passage a sum of £1,000 is placed on the Estimates, and the sum of £2,500 towards the payment of interest of the public loan. With the foregoing exceptions, the Estimates will show little or no variation from those now in force. I now perhaps come to the most important part of the statement which I have the honor of submitting to the House; I mean the question of ways and means, but before entering upon that subject I must again crave the indulgence of hon. members while I make another short digression. My sole object in doing so is a jealousy of the honor of the Government and a desire to explain what if unexplained may be greatly misunderstood. A statement has been made, Sir, in perfectly good faith, I have no reason to say otherwise and under the belief that it was altogether correct, which in some measure affects me personally and may be taken to affect my official reputation. In alluding to it, I will again divest myself of my personal feeling in the matter, and I would not have troubled the House by referring to it at all except for the mere purpose of showing that there are two sides to the case. The statement to which I allude, Sir, was made by an hon. gentleman at a public meeting held in another portion of this building not very long ago; a statement to the effect that when the late Governor Hampton left this colony there was a sum of £25,000 in the Treasury chest; that at the present time the chest was empty; that with a less revenue than we have at present Governor Hampton undertook and carried out large public works. Now, Sir, I think the fair inference to be drawn from that statement is that during the administration of the late Governor, the affairs of the colony were better managed than they are at present. In the time of Governor

Hampton I had quite as much to do with the finances of the colony as at the present day, and if I was not in a position to show that there is another side to the statement alluded to I would merely remain silent, and endeavor to amend matters for the future. If the circumstances of the colony were at the present time the same as in the days of the late Governor Hampton we should have grievously erred and been to blame had there not been a large surplus in the public chest at the present day. The hon. gentleman who made the statement I allude to, was not aware of all the circumstances which have made such a great difference between the administration of the late Governor and the present administration. I simply propose to trouble the Council with a few figures to show that had things been the same during the first two years of the present administration, 1870 and 1871, as they were during the last two years of the late administration, the financial position of the colony would have been very different to what it now is. Governor Hampton, Sir, left this colony on the 2nd November, 1868, at which date there was a sum of £22,475 in the Treasury chest. Governor Weld arrived on September 30th, 1869, and found the sum of £19,737 in the chest. Now, Sir, I propose to leave aside altogether the year 1869, which was the interim between the departure of Governor Hampton and the arrival of Governor Weld, though the figures of that year would suit me better, and to confine my attention to the two previous years, the two last years of Governor Hampton's term of office and to compare them with 1870 and 1871, the two first years of the present Governor's administration. And what do we find? I find that the balance in the public chest on January 1st, 1867, was £9,466, and that the whole amount of revenue received during that year and the following, 1868, was £189,927, making a total of £199,393. The actual expenditure during the same period amounted to £179,229, leaving a balance of £20,164 at the end of 1868. Let me analyze these figures a little further. The estimated revenue for the two years alluded to was £176,033, and the actual receipts amounted to £189,927, being £13,894 in excess of the estimated revenue. Such was the state of affairs in 1867 and 1868. Now let me turn to 1870 and 1871. The balance in the public chest on 1st January, 1870, was £20,164, the actual revenue received in 1870 and 1871 was £195,738, making a total of £216,123. The actual expenditure during the same period was £220,194, leaving a deficiency on 31st December, 1871, of £4,071. But now let us compare the two years. Take the balance on January 1st, 1870,

£20,164, add the estimated revenue of the two years (£8,059 more than was actually received) £203,795; add again a similar excess of revenue to that received in 1867 and 1868, viz., £13,894, and the total will be £238,074. Deduct the entire expenditure £220,190 from this sum, and a balance is shown of £17,980 in favor of the colony. Therefore Sir I maintain that had the revenue maintained the same elasticity in 1870 and 1871 that it did in 1867 and 1868, when Mr. Hampton wisely accumulated the surplus funds for use in failing times, there would have been, after allowing for all overdrafts, no less a sum than £18,000 in the Treasury on the 1st January 1872. But let me go a little further still. In 1867 and 1868 there was expended on public works and roads the sum of £27,549, and in 1870 and 1871, £24,898; the excess bills of 1867-68 amounted to £17,363, and those for 1870-71 to £27,549 and these last at a time of unprecedented distress in the colony, when money had to be expended without the authority of Council. Now, Sir, this is a fair statement of our financial affairs during the years referred to, and I think it at any rate shows that there has been no mismanagement, and that there are two sides to the question. I repeat that I should not have alluded to this matter at all, did I not consider that, in justice to myself and to the Government of which I am a member, I would have egregiously erred did I allow such statements to go forth without endeavoring to show that there was another aspect to the case, that things were not quite so bad as they had been made out, and that had the circumstances of the colony continued the same as they were in the days of the late Governor Hampton, we should now, instead of having an empty chest, have the sum of £18,000 in hand. Having set myself right on this point, I will only add with reference to it that it is my desire, and it is the desire of the Government, that everything connected with the finances of the colony should be clearly laid before this Council. The Government, Sir, have nothing which they wish to conceal from this House; we desire to be perfectly open, perfectly straightforward, and I do not think there is a single question connected with the colony's finances to which I will not be able to give a thoroughly satisfactory answer. I will now, Sir, proceed to the question of ways and means. Before doing so, however, I will place on the table a document emanating from the District Roads Board of Greenough, and I would call the attention of the hon. member for Greenough to it, as a very public-spirited document indeed. It is a document, Sir, in which those from whom it emanated, ask to be taxed. It is the very first

document of the kind that has ever come into my hands, and I have much pleasure in laying it before the House and in calling the attention of hon. members to it. The members of the roads board seek the power to tax all vehicles running in their district, and they have asked that a Bill to that effect be passed. I draw the attention of all hon. members to it, because what may be good for the Greenough may possibly be equally so for other parts of the colony. But to return, Sir, to the question of ways and means. It will be in the recollection of hon. members that the tariff was revised early last year, and that considerable alterations were then effected in the duties leviable on certain articles. It is not the intention of the Government to suggest any further alterations in those rates of duties, for the following reason. It is considered that a continual alteration of the duties leviable on various articles of trade leads to a disarrangement of commerce, and, with one exception, no alteration is now proposed by the Government. That exception is the raising of the *ad valorem* duty from 7 per cent. to 7½ per cent., which will effect an increase of between £400 and £500 in the revenue. Beyond this, there is no intention of revising the tariff, but it is proposed to extend the free list in such a manner as it is hoped will give an impetus to all matters connected with colonial produce, commerce, manufactures, and agricultural industries. In fact, Sir, it is proposed by the Government to remove the duty off all raw materials that can be produced or manufactured in the colony. (Hear, hear.) I think this will be a very great boon to the country. It is not my intention at present to enter into any further details in this matter; when the question comes before the House in due form, item by item will have to be discussed, and, so far as I can see, not one single interest in the colony will be materially benefitted by the proposed change. I am quite aware, Sir, that it was only last year that we removed from the free list many of the articles which it is now proposed to restore to it; but the Governor has come to the conclusion that a mistake was made in removing them from the free list at all. For this reason, it is now in contemplation to extend the free list considerably. In proposing this, however, I do not overlook the fact that the revenue must be augmented in some way or other, and that provision will have to be made for the payment of interest on the proposed loan. To that end it is suggested that 12½ per cent. should be levied on the amount of the actual duties now paid on goods entered at the Custom House. The proposition is one that will, I trust, commend itself to favor if

only on account of its simplicity; it is a course that has been satisfactorily adopted elsewhere, that can be taken up or dropped at any time without disarranging business matters, and it will involve no additional expense in the collection of the additional duty. It is a just and equitable arrangement, and will press fairly on all classes. For this reason I think it will recommend itself to this House. In order that I may be clearly understood, let me illustrate what I mean. Supposing a merchant enters an invoice of the value of £200, upon which the *ad valorem* duty at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent would amount to £15. It is now proposed to impose an additional $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent upon that amount, which would come to £1 17s. 6d, making the total amount of duty to be paid, £16 17s. 6d. Again, let us suppose a merchant entering a hogshead of brandy, 60 gallons, upon which the duty at 12s. a gallon amounted to £36, $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on £36 would amount to £4 10s., and that is the extra sum he would have to pay. This proposal disarranges no existing duty of any kind, and it will cause no trouble in calculation. It may be removed, lowered, or increased, without leading to any confused disarrangements of the machinery of commerce, or disturbing our fiscal relations in the least. The sum which such a duty would bring to the revenue is something like £5,900, which will meet all the requirements attendant upon the increased expenditure which the initiation of a public loan, as contemplated in the present Loan Bill, will entail. Sir, I will detain the House no longer; I have already trespassed too long on its indulgence and forbearance. Such, briefly, are the proposals which it has been my privilege to place this evening before this honorable House. And I have only now to ask that, they may receive from hon. members a calm careful, and dispassionate consideration. The more they look at them the more will they like them; the closer they examine them, the more convinced will they be that the Government, at any rate, has not been idle, but has adopted and brought forward an enlightened and progressive, a steadily progressive policy. I only hope it may meet with the concurrence of the House; but whether it do or do not, I will here venture to pledge myself on behalf of the Government that any plan or suggestion offered by this Council having for its object the general welfare of the colony, the development of its resources, and the encouragement of enterprise and industry, will receive from the members of the Government that same calm and dispassionate consideration, that same careful attention that I now ask hon. members to accord to the propositions which it has been my privilege to lay

before them to-night. (The hon. gentleman, who commenced his financial statement at twenty minutes past six, resumed his seat, amidst the cheers of the House, at eight o'clock precisely.)

The SPEAKER said it had been his particular wish not to have been in the position in which he then found himself. When he accepted the position of Speaker, he did so with a firm determination not to take any more part in the debates of the House than he was forced to do. He had endeavored on the previous day, when the House was in Committee, to do all that he possibly could to prevent being brought on his legs, and he now rose to offer what he might call an explanation. He had no idea of reviewing the most able statement which had just been made. Had not,—he would not say his name been alluded to, for his name had not been mentioned, but had he not evidently been alluded to by the hon. gentleman who had just sat down, he would not then be standing before the House—his feelings altogether would have prompted him to support the hon. gentleman and the Government in the views which he had submitted for their consideration; but when his toes were trodden upon, or whenever the interests of his constituency called him forth, he would never shirk his duty. Allusion had been made to a statement made by an hon. gentleman at a public meeting held close by. He was that hon. gentleman. He it was who had alluded to that great and good financier the late Governor Hampton, and expressed a belief that if that poor gentleman or his ghost had been amongst us we should not have had the present lamentable state of the public funds. He was particularly sorry that this matter had been brought forward; but figures were stubborn things, and when he had spoken at the public meeting alluded to he believed he was justified in all that he then said. He would give the House his reason for making the statement to which the hon. gentleman had alluded, and in doing so might observe that the figures which he was about to quote would be found in the statement made by the Auditor General in the Census returns. He would go back as far as the year 1862, when he found that the revenue amounted to £67,337, the expenditure for the same year being £72,268, £4,931 in excess of the revenue. In 1863, the revenue was £69,408, and the expenditure £71,073, being £1,665 in excess of the receipts. In 1864, the revenue amounted to £71,844, and the disbursements amounted to £70,715, leaving a balance in the chest of £1,129. In the following year the revenue was £77,943, and the expenditure £74,985, leaving

a surplus of £2,958. The revenue in 1866 was £89,382, and the disbursements £84,652, showing a balance of £4,730 in favor of the Treasury. In 1867 the receipts were £90,431, and the expenditure £89,502, which left a surplus in the chest of £929. Next year the revenue amounted to £99,496, while the expenditure reached £89,727, thus leaving a balance of £9,769. He had now gone over Governor Hampton's administration, and the result showed that from the year 1862 to the year 1868, a surplus revenue of £19,485 accrued. Deducting from that sum the excess of expenditure in the year 1862 and 1863, which amounted to £6,596, he found that the actual revenue saved during the Hampton administration was £12,889. He next came to the year 1869, when Governor Weld assumed the reins of Government. In that year the revenue amounted to £103,662, and the expenditure was £103,124, which left £538 to the credit of the Treasury. Next year the total revenue was £98,131, when the expenditure amounted to £113,046, being £14,195 in excess of the revenue. In 1871, the revenue was £97,605, and the expenditure attained the sum of £107,147, showing a further excess of expenditure of £9,542. From these figures it would be seen that from January 1st, 1869 to December 31st, 1871, the public expenditure was £23,919 in excess of the revenue. It was upon that fact that he had founded the statement alluded to, and the figures which he had just quoted would show hon. members whether or not he had been justified in making it. He regretted exceedingly that he had been called upon to make this explanation; he had done all within his power to avoid it, but he was determined to do his duty to himself and to his constituents whenever he was called upon.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee): The hon. member who has just sat down has alluded to my having trodden on his toes. Before entering on the statement to which he has taken exception I disclaimed as I now disclaim the slightest personal feeling, and my sole object was to show the members of this House and the public generally that there were two sides to the case, two aspects under which the statement made by him should be viewed. The figures used by the hon. member taken from the Census, I cannot and will not dispute; they are my own figures, as annually compiled by myself and will conclusively prove my statement; in which there can be no doubt; had the revenue shown the same elasticity in 1870 and 1871 as it did in 1867 and 1868, there would have been a difference of £22,000, and a sum of £18,000 in the chest on the 1st January 1872. No doubt in

the last two years the actual revenue had been increased by extra taxation, but every penny of that taxation had been appropriated by vote of the Legislature and spent accordingly.

Mr. NEWMAN said he had no intention when entering the House that evening to enter into a discussion upon anything that would be said by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary in making his financial statement; but in consequence of the turn the debate had already taken he thought it would be desirable that hon. members should at once proceed to discuss the various matters which had been submitted to the House, more especially as he understood that the Estimates would not be introduced until the views of the House had been taken on the proposed governmental measures. The hon. gentleman in opening his speech in endeavoring to make out a case in favor of withholding from the public the details of measures which the Government have in contemplation of introducing at an approaching session, went a great deal further than anyone had asked the Government to do. The hon. gentleman went so far as to say that it was expected that the governmental measures should have been made known even before the members of Council had been elected. He (Mr. Newman) had never heard anyone even hinting at the desirability of the Government doing any such thing. The complaints which he had heard simply amounted to this; that up to the very time of the members entering the House they had no idea what measures the Government intended to introduce, or what its political programme was likely to be. Not that the governmental policy should be made known months before-hand, but that until that very evening the elected members had no idea what was proposed to be done by the Government in the way of legislation. It was just possible that hon. members might have some inkling of what it was intended to be done in some instances, but nothing definite was ever known as to the plans of the Government. With reference to the Loan Bill, he was exceedingly pleased to learn that though the Bill was accepted in its present form, they would not be pledged to spend the money voted for every item, and that they would be allowed to leave some items unexpended if not prepared to devote them to the object originally intended. There was another thing in connection with the loan which he was glad to hear, namely, that the whole of it would be raised in the colony. This had removed one great opposition against the Bill on the part of elected members, who were of opinion that to go into a foreign market to borrow so paltry a sum as was contemplated in the Bill would be most damaging to the

credit of the colony. If the members of that House were to go up and down the streets of Perth to try and borrow £10, their credit would be damned at once; but if they sought to borrow £10,000, the case would be very different. Even as in individual cases, so would it be with a colony, and were we to go in to the London market to borrow a trifling sum like £35,000, the colony's credit would be damned at once. That objection, however, had been removed, and he was very glad to learn that it was proposed to raise the sum in the colony. After the explanation offered by the Colonial Secretary in regard to the telegraph scheme he certainly thought that another great objection to the Loan Bill had been removed, and, under the circumstances, he hoped the Bill would receive the assent of the House, especially as the Government did not appear to be exceedingly nice in this way of getting out of any difficulties that might arise. With regard to the jetty and breakwater question he was, individually, exceedingly obliged to the Colonial Secretary for his very lucid explanation of the correspondence and plans which had been received by the Government. As to the wooden plan laid on the table, it was certainly more remarkable for simplicity than grandeur. Hon. members, however, should not despise it. A certain member of the House of Commons once exemplified a plan which he submitted to the House by means of a cheese, and he (Mr. Newman) saw no reason why we should despise a project illustrated by a model constructed of jam sticks. As to the general principle of the governmental programme he must certainly confess himself at a loss to understand how it was that the Government never seemed to begin at home, but to go, as it were, to the other end of the world with their plans of operation. That was, in general terms, his objection to the proposal which had emanated from the Government in regard of public works; and a very tangible objection it seemed to be. He maintained that the time had arrived when the colony could not hope to make any further progress without improved internal communication. That, he thought, could not be disputed. He would go a step further, and looking at what was being done in other parts of the world, that improved means of internal communication must take the form of railways. That, probably, would not be disputed either. The next step he would take was to maintain that when railways were constructed unless there were some extraordinary and peculiarly strong grounds for doing otherwise, they should begin at the largest centres of population, and proceed, as soon as practicable, to the next largest centres. On this principle, which was strictly logical, he

contended that as Perth, Fremantle, and Guildford were the three largest centres of population in this colony, the starting point of any railway proposed to be constructed should be at one of these centres. In saying that, he was not to be understood as holding that a line of railway should be actually commenced at any of these places, unless it could clearly be shown by indisputable statistical information that such a railway would be a self-supporting and remunerative undertaking. At any rate, he deprecated the proposal of the Government to support the construction of a railway at the other end of the colony, instead of beginning at home. It was also proposed to spend £1,000 in the improvement of the Challenger Passage—again going away from the accommodation at our very doors. The Colonial Secretary himself did not know exactly what it was intended to be done with that sum, or what the eventual result might be; in fact, he seemed to be, in a measure, in the dark about the whole affair. Be that as it may, he (Mr. Newman) contended that no hon. member in that House, either from his personal knowledge, or from what he had read, could point out any single instance in any part of the world where a navigable river, passing the very centres of population, had been wantonly abandoned as the basis of harbor improvements, until it had been proved, at very heavy, and in some instances, almost ruinous expense, that the utilization of the river was impracticable. He laid that down as a truism which he defied any member in the House to controvert by example. He would go further and assert that if we went to Challenger Passage, and there spent, as proposed, a sum of £1,000 in attempting to improve its navigation, we were wantonly abandoning our river as the basis of harbor improvements. It had been said that our river had been condemned, as being incapable of being utilized, by three engineers. He denied that any one of the three condemned it. Colonel Anderson had certainly done so to a certain extent; but it was only on account of the probable cost of improving it, and when Colonel Henderson was here our export and import trade was not one-half what it is now, and what would have been looked upon as lavish expenditure at that time, would, in our more advanced state, be altogether different. A man may very readily and very properly condemn the impropriety of incurring expenses that cannot be borne; but it was a very different thing when one was in a position to incur such expenses. With reference to the celebrated Mr. Doyne, he certainly had condemned the river on the ground that it was gradually silting up,

and that it would therefore be useless to attempt to improve a river that promised to become, in course of time, little better than a ditch. He (Mr. Newman) was quite aware that it was easy enough to condemn any project on false grounds. The arguments adduced might be logically correct, but if the premises were false, the deductions were utterly worthless. He contended that this was the case with Mr. Doyne's report on the navigation of the Swan, and it seemed to him quite incomprehensible this action of the Government in abandoning improvements which might be carried on at our very doors, and going, as it were, abroad to seek for opportunities for expending the public money. With reference to the cost of the Government in this colony, that was a subject which he had already alluded to when addressing his constituents. The Colonial Secretary had alluded to the cost of conducting the affairs of a private establishment. He would do the same, and contend that if the partners or the managers of such an establishment allowed what he might term the indirect, added to the direct, expenses of the administration to exceed the receipts the inevitable result would be bankruptcy. Moreover, the indirect expenses of a private establishment very far exceeded the direct expenses, and he could not therefore see any analogy between the cost of conducting such an establishment and the cost of administering the affairs of a country. The hon. gentleman's argument had not much weight in opposition to the statement made by an hon. member. As to the proposed revision of the tariff, he certainly could not support the governmental scheme, and as to the proposed imposition of an additional 12½ per cent, duty on the amount realized by customs duties, he thought such a proposition should be very carefully considered before it was adopted. The hon. gentleman in submitting his scheme laid too much stress on the fact that such a duty would not disarrange our commercial arrangements. On the contrary, it appeared to him (Mr. Newman) that it would very materially affect the existing order of things. *Ad valorem* duties had come to be looked upon, in all the Australian colonies, as a necessary evil, in consequence of the multifarious character of colonial imports. Efforts had been made over and over again to do away with that duty, and to raise the revenue, so far as the customs was concerned, by special duties. But in every case such attempts had signally failed, and the colonies had to resort to an *ad valorem* duty, not, however, upon such articles as a special duty could be conveniently imposed upon. He thought the example afforded us by the other

colonies could be considered in preference to the 12½ per cent. scheme of the Colonial Secretary, which had nothing but its simplicity to recommend it. There were many articles besides tea and sugar which ought to be submitted to special duties: in fact every article sold by weight might be so taxed without causing much inconvenience and without pressing very hard upon any class of the community.

Progress reported, and leave obtained to sit again.

The Council adjourned at 8.45 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 6th August, 1872.

Volunteer Force Petition—Arrangement of the House: select committee report—Letter of John Forrest to Colonial Secretary—Vote by Ballot—Town and Suburban Allotments—Public Loan Bill: first reading—Duties on Imported Goods Repeal Bill: first reading—Additional Duties on Tariff Act, 1872, Bill: first reading—Amendment of Constitution Bill: first reading—Public House and Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors Bill: select committee—Financial Statement—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: second reading: select committee—Grants of Patents Bill: second reading: in committee—Standing Orders.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.

PRAYERS.

VOLUNTEER FORCE PETITION.

Mr. CARR presented a petition, signed by the Officers of the Volunteer Force, praying that some measures be adopted for the encouragement and maintenance of better discipline and greater efficiency in the Volunteer Force in the colony.

The petition was received and read by the Clerk.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE HOUSE.

Select Committee Report.

Mr. BICKLEY brought up the report of the select committee appointed to report upon the re-arrangement of the Council Chamber.

LETTER OF MR. JOHN FORREST TO COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid upon the Table of the House a letter from Mr. John Forrest to the Colonial Secretary, relative to an expedition from Champion Bay, following the Murchison River to its