

place the matter before the House, so that hon. members might know what progress had been made with regard to the negotiations with which the Government had been entrusted. He was able to state that the representative members had given very careful attention indeed to the subject, and had been in conference with the Government with reference to it; and they saw no reason to depart from the resolution adopted last Session, believing that the Government was entitled to every confidence in the matter. He felt that the executive members of the Government were the proper persons to continue the negotiations which had been entered upon, as they were in a much better position to attend to the details of the scheme than hon. members of that House could possibly be. At first sight it had appeared to him that the Government had come forward to ask the House to decide as to the details of the negotiations, but the result of the conference which had taken place between the representative members and the Government showed that such an impression was an erroneous one, and that the subject had been placed before them merely to show what progress had been made with regard to the negotiations. The House had every confidence in the Government doing what was best for the interests of the Colony in the matter.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) assured the House it would have no reason to regret the confidence thus placed in the Government with reference to this important matter.

The resolution was then carried *nem. con.*, and reported to the House.

The House then adjourned until Thursday.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 6th June, 1878.

Dongara Jetty—Municipal Institutions' Act, 1876, Amendment Bill, 1878: second reading—Perth Drainage Rate Act, 1875, Amendment Bill, 1878: second reading—Land Quarantine Bill, 1876: second reading; in committee.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

DONGARA JETTY.

MR. CROWTHER, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether it was the intention of the Government to extend the Dongara Jetty, in accordance with a resolution of the House adopted at the last Session of Council? Five years ago, a sum which was considered sufficient to carry out this work was placed on the Estimates, but, for some reason or other, the money was not expended. Four Sessions ago, he was asked by the Government to allow the matter to stand over until an official survey of the vicinity of the jetty was made, with a view to ascertain what alterations would be most expedient to make. To this request he had acceded. Three Sessions ago he was again promised that the matter would receive consideration, but nothing was done. And last Session, in reply to an address adopted by the House and presented to the then Governor, praying him to place a sum on the Estimates sufficient to repair and extend the jetty, he was informed that such sums would be expended on the work as might be found necessary for the same. Nothing, however, had been done, and he now begged to ask the Government whether there was any intention to do anything in the matter?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) replied as follows:—On the 10th August last, His Excellency Sir William Robinson sent a message in reply, stating that he had not sufficient information to enable him to fix a sum sufficient, but that the matter would be taken into consideration and the work undertaken if found advisable, and such sum expended as found necessary, etc. The matter being left for the present Government, His Excellency the

Governor, after personally inspecting the Dongara Jetty in company with the Director of Public Works, came to the conclusion that its extension to such a length as would afford access to vessels of deeper draft than the "Rob Roy" would be attended with so much expense, that he had not felt justified in proposing any sum on the Estimates for this purpose.

**MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS' ACT, 1876,
AMENDMENT BILL, 1878.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) in moving the second reading of this Bill, said it had been rendered apparent at the last Municipal Election at Perth that there were certain defects and omissions in the present Act, and the object of the Bill now before the House was to remedy those defects and to supply those omissions. In the first place it was proposed to invest the Governor with power—in case the electors of a municipality failed to duly elect a chairman, councillors, and auditors, or any of them—to fix another day than that provided in the Act for holding such election. The third section of the Bill provided that in case the chairman of a municipal council was ill, absent, or incapacitated by law from being the presiding or returning officer, the council was at liberty to appoint any of its members to be the returning officer. The remaining sections of the Bill gave more extended powers to municipal authorities to deal with slaughter houses and with jetties, within their jurisdiction. Provision was also made to empower municipalities to levy a dog tax,—this provision being regarded as necessary in consequence of the existence of some doubts as to the power of municipal councils to levy and collect this tax, since the repeal of the "Municipal Institutions' Act, 1871." These were the main provisions of the Bill, the second reading of which he now asked the House to agree to. In deference to the expressed wish of the Chairman of the Perth City Council, and of several other hon. members, he did not propose to ask the House to go into Committee on the Bill at this stage.

Motion for second reading agreed to, without discussion.

**PERTH DRAINAGE RATE ACT, 1875,
AMENDMENT BILL, 1878.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved the second reading of a Bill to amend "The Perth Drainage Rate Act, 1875." The object of the Bill was to compel the City Council to pay to the Colonial Treasurer all monies levied by the Act referred to, towards the liquidation of the debt incurred by the municipality by virtue of that Act. The Bill also empowered the City Council to continue to levy an extra rate for the purpose of providing the necessary funds for liquidating this debt, and further provided that the treasurer of the municipality shall make monthly returns of the proceeds of the said rate to the Colonial Treasurer.

Bill read a second time, *sub silentio*.

LAND QUARANTINE BILL, 1878.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy), in accordance with notice, moved the second reading of a Bill to make provision for the better prevention of the spread of infectious or contagious diseases. At present, no power was vested in any one, in the event of such a disease breaking out, no matter of how malignant a nature, to take prompt action for the purpose of preventing its spread; and the object of the present Bill was to empower the Governor to take the necessary precautions for doing so. To this end, it was proposed to render it lawful for the Governor-in-Council to make such regulations or orders as might seem necessary or expedient, in the event of any infectious or contagious disease of a malignant nature, such as smallpox, breaking out, with a view to securing the public health. The Bill was one which, he thought, would commend itself to the favorable consideration of the House.

Bill read a second time, without comment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved that the Bill be committed.

Agreed to.

Bill passed through Committee without discussion or amendment.

Bill reported.

The House adjourned at a quarter to one o'clock, p.m.