

Friday evening, and that the business on the paper for today be postponed accordingly.

MR VENN: In rising to second this motion, I should like to say a few words with reference to an hon. member whom I regarded as a colleague in this House. I was glad to hear the few words addressed to the House by the leader of the Government, and, possibly, had I had time I should have felt it my duty to have dwelt at some length upon the services rendered to the public of this colony by the late hon. member for the Vasse. He was a member of this House for a great many years, both under the present constitution and under the form of Government that prevailed before this constitution came into force, and I think every hon. member here, and every person in the colony who knew the late member for the Vasse will admit, notwithstanding his faults—and possibly he had many—and notwithstanding all the abuse heaped upon him, that there never was a more fearless and more independent member of this House than the late hon. member. I feel, sir, that we are only paying a small tribute to his memory—but it is a graceful tribute, and the only one within our power to pay him—in adjourning the business of the House until tomorrow.

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously.

The House adjourned at a quarter past twelve o'clock.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, 5th September, 1884.*

Presbyterian Church Bill: second reading—Police Benefit Fund Bill: second reading—Governor's Salary Bill: second reading—Building Bill: third reading—Message (No. 34): Replying to Addresses—Estimates, 1885: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BILL.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in moving the second reading of this bill, said hon. members would observe that the bill was framed very much upon the same lines as other measures dealing with church property were framed. The object of the bill was to incorporate the minister of the Presbyterian Church in Perth and two of the elders of that church (Mr. Moseley and Colonel Angelo) as commissioners for the management of the real and personal estate of the church. The bill also provided for the appointment of additional commissioners in the event of new congregations being formed, which commissioners would be the minister for the time being of such congregation and one of the elders to be selected by the congregation. These commissioners would be empowered to receive all monies raised or contributed for church purposes, and to apply such funds as they shall think fit, subject to the approval of a majority of the congregation. They would also be empowered, under certain conditions, to invest the funds upon mortgage, or, if necessary, to mortgage the lands of the church, and generally to manage the church property.

The motion for the second reading was agreed to, without discussion.

## POLICE BENEFIT FUND BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), in moving the second reading of a bill to amend an Ordinance to regulate the Police Benefit Fund, said it would be necessary for him to say scarcely anything. It would be in the recollection of the House that a select committee had been recently appointed to inquire into the state of this fund, and that the report of the committee was not altogether favorable to the present condition of the fund. The committee at all events made certain recommendations on the subject, which the Government had adopted, and which were carried out in this bill, which was based on the following principle. Heretofore it had been the practice to devote a moiety of the fines and penalties imposed upon offenders by magistrates, upon information laid by the police, to this Benefit Fund; but the committee, after giving

some consideration to the matter, came to the conclusion that it would be more desirable that the energies of the police should not be stimulated by the appropriation for their own benefit of these fines, and that it would be better that the fund should be supported by a direct vote of the Legislature. It would be unnecessary for him to say any more than that the present bill carried out that suggestion of the committee.

The motion for the second reading was agreed to, without further comment.

#### GOVERNOR'S SALARY BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the second reading of a bill to supplement the Governor's salary. The bill merely carried out the resolution of the House that the amount payable by this colony towards the salary of the Governor or other officer administering the Government shall be £1200 a year (instead of £700 as at present), the remaining £1800 being contributed by the Imperial Government.

The second reading was agreed to *sub silentio*.

#### BUILDING BILL.

On the order of the day for the third reading of this bill,

MR. SHENTON moved as an amendment that the bill be recommitted.

MR. SPEAKER remarked that, before he took the Chair, his attention had been called to the fact that the object in view in moving the recommitment of the bill was to strike out a certain amendment introduced in committee by the hon. member for Perth (dealing with balconies), and, as no notice had been given of any intention to move the recommitment of the bill or any intimation given to hon. members as to the object in view, it had occurred to him that the House might be taken by surprise,—which was very undesirable at all times. He thought the more proper course to have adopted would have been to have given notice of the hon. member's intention to move the recommitment of the bill for the purpose named, so as to avoid the House being taken by surprise.

MR. MARMION expressed his intention of taking every advantage of the forms of the House to defeat the object

in view. It was his intention to do a little bit of stonewalling that evening—a course that had never been pursued in that House before.

MR. BURT said he offered no apology for seconding the amendment, as he was not in the House when the bill was committed the other day. There was nothing on the notice paper to show that the bill was going to be committed, and therefore he had not made a point of attending, which he otherwise would have done. The order of the day was to consider the report of the select committee on the bill; instead of that, the House went into committee on the bill itself, without previous notice. Therefore he made no apology at all for supporting the motion of the hon. member for Toodyay, that the bill be now recommitted for the purpose of striking out an amendment introduced in committee. No notice was given of that amendment, and why should it be necessary to give notice of this amendment. If the House was taken by surprise now, he for his part was equally taken by surprise when he found that the bill had been committed, although its committal had not been ordered.

MR. SPEAKER said no doubt the thing was done in an informal manner, and he called attention to it at the time. But, in order to facilitate the business of the session as much as possible, and as time was short, the committal of the bill was proceeded with, though the order of the day was the consideration of the select committee's report; but, if the hon. member complained—and very properly complained—that no notice was given of the House going into committee on the bill, would it not be equally improper to recommit it now, without notice?

MR. MARMION said it was well known to every hon. member why it was sought to have the bill recommitted that evening; it was simply in order to take advantage of the absence of one or two hon. members, who would have opposed the motion had they been aware it was coming on. He therefore intended to do all within his power to frustrate the object in view, and, in doing so, he would probably have to occupy the time of the House for some hours. [At this stage, a waiter from the refreshment room entered the House bearing a tray, with some bis-

cuits and a glass of water, which were placed in front of the hon. member. Unmoved by this diversion in his favor, the hon. member proceeded with his address, occasionally reminded by Mr. SPEAKER of the question before the House. The hon. member said he was sorry it would probably be his duty to keep His Honor in the chair until about midnight, unless the House should be previously counted out. Once or twice, lacking inspiration, he halted; but upon the point being raised whether the hon. member was in possession of the House by the mere fact of his being on his legs, Mr. SPEAKER ruled that the hon. member was quite in order, so long as he addressed himself to the question before the House. Eventually, after about an hour had been consumed in these tactics,]—

MR. SPEAKER put the amendment to the House—That the bill be recommitted. A division being called for, there appeared—

Ayes ... .. 9

Noes ... .. 9

AYES.  
Sir T. C. Campbell  
Mr. Davis  
Mr. Loton  
Mr. S. S. Parker  
Mr. Randell  
Mr. Shenton  
Hon. J. G. Lee Steere  
Mr. Venn  
Mr. Burt (Teller)

NOES.  
Hon. M. Fraser  
Hon. J. Forrest  
Mr. Mason  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Glyde  
Mr. Marmion  
Mr. McRae  
Mr. S. H. Parker  
Hon. A. P. Hensman  
(Teller.)

The numbers being equal the SPEAKER gave his casting vote with the Noes, and the motion to recommit the bill was negatived.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### MESSAGE (No. 34): REPLYING TO ADDRESSES.

THE SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has favorably considered the requests contained in the following Addresses:—

"No. 11. Provision of £1000 to prospect for Gold and other Metals;

"No. 30. Extension to the Arthur River of the existing Mail Service

"between Geraldton and Nookawarra;

"No. 31. Mail Service in the Kimberley District;

"But that he has come to the conclusion that it would be imprudent to make any further additions to the already very large Estimates of Expenditure for 1885.

"2. With regard to Address No. 27, the Governor, after consultation with the Postmaster General, finds that it will be possible to keep the Telegraph Offices open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and from 7 to 8 p.m., without incurring any additional expense. The present hours are, from 7 to 8 a.m., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and from 7 to 8 p.m., and the proposed new arrangement would thus increase the office time by one hour, that is, from a total of 8 hours to a total of 9 hours. The Governor requests to know whether the Legislative Council will accept this arrangement, as some improvement on the present regulations.

"3. The honorarium of £50 to the Very Reverend the Dean of Perth, recommended in Address No. 35, can be paid from funds at the Governor's disposal, and the Governor will have much pleasure in ordering accordingly. "Government House, Perth, 5th September, 1884."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he might add to the information contained in His Excellency's message that the offices to which the above hours would apply were those at Perth, Fremantle, Albany, and Geraldton.

MR. MARMION did not think this concession would be at all satisfactory, and he proposed to bring the matter forward again when the Estimates were recommitted.

#### ESTIMATES, 1885.

On the order of the day for going into committee of supply for the further consideration of the Estimates,

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said hon. members were aware that this was the time for ventilating grievances, and he wished to move that it be an instruction to the select committee on public works to take into their consideration the question of the desirability of including in the schedule to the proposed Loan Bill the necessary provision for

establishing Telephonic Exchanges in Perth and Fremantle. Some time ago the House had adopted a resolution in favor of the establishment of a telephone exchange, but the reply received by message from His Excellency was so extremely vague that he thought, if the matter were left as it now stood, they would probably hear no more about it, for he noticed that no provision was made on the Estimates for establishing these exchanges. Possibly, in view of the small margin left between the estimated expenditure and the estimated revenue, it might not be prudent to make provision for carrying out the wish of the House in this matter out of general revenue, and therefore he thought—as the work was one of acknowledged necessity, and as he believed himself it would pay “hand over fist”—provision might be made for it in the next Loan Bill.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said he would bring the matter under the notice of the select committee.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he also had a grievance. Hon. members were aware that the question of the maintenance of the Water Police had been the subject of correspondence for some years past between this Government and the Imperial authorities, and that, so far as that House was aware, the question was still in abeyance. No provision whatever that he could see was made for the payment of the Water Police by our own Government, and he should like to know from what funds they were paid?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it would be better, if the hon. member required a precise answer to his question, that he should give notice of it, but if the hon. member merely wished for an explanation he might inform him that the Water Police, pending the arrival at some decision on the subject, were maintained out of advances made by this Government and debited to the Imperial Government,—a debt which he had no doubt would be duly honored. The question had been hung up now for some time, and this was merely a temporary expedient, but whatever advances were made out of the Colonial Treasury would no doubt be refunded by the Imperial Government.

MR. BROWN: I, too, have a grievance.

I understand that the reply received just now from His Excellency the Governor to the address adopted by this House the other day, that the large sum of £100 should be placed on the Estimates for extending the present monthly mail service to the Arthur River, in the Gascoyne District, is that the request cannot be complied with, because there will be no funds available. There was only one other request which I put forward on behalf of my constituents this session, and that was that the provision made on the Estimates for the salary of a medical officer for the Gascoyne should be increased from £100 to £200, the same as the allowance made for the medical officer at Roebourne—where there is a great deal more private practice than at the Gascoyne—and also for a medical officer for the Kimberley District. The House refused to agree to that proposal, and therefore I suppose I cannot complain of the treatment of the Government in this other matter. But I do very much regret that these two very modest requests should have been denied the settlers of the Gascoyne. I think both of them were reasonable requests, and I think it is but fair I should warn the Government that the settlers of the district cannot be expected to remain satisfied and contented when such reasonable and just demands as I have made on their behalf are refused. It will be my duty simply to report to them that although I put forward a claim for additional provision for the salary of a medical officer for their district, this House on the one hand refused to recognise that claim, and that the Government when the question was put to the test of a division voted against it,—had the Government supported it I have no doubt the address would have been carried. On the other hand, when the House did agree to an address asking the Government to extend the present mail services, at a cost of £100 only, the Government refused to do even that much for them. There will yet be other matters which it will be my duty before the session closes to place before the House in the interests of my constituents, and I hope they will be found to be as reasonable as those which have been refused; but I trust that the treatment which they will receive at the hands of

the House and at the hands of the Government will not be such as these requests have received. My grievance, sir, is over.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Has any other hon. member a grievance?

There being no response, the motion for going into committee of supply was agreed to.

*Police Department, Item £26,526:*

**MR. S. H. PARKER** advocated the claims of the Superintendent to a higher salary than £400. The Postmaster General, the hon. member said, had received an increment bringing his pay up to £600, and he certainly thought the salary of the Superintendent of Police was too low, compared with the salaries paid to other heads of departments. He also thought the chief clerk in the police department was deserving of a larger increase than £25.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser) entirely agreed with the hon. member's estimate of the value of the chief clerk's services, but the commission appointed to deal with the question of increasing salaries had carefully considered his claims, and the increase given was in accordance with their recommendations.

**MR. S. H. PARKER** said he observed from the Estimates that the Government had not considered themselves at all bound by the recommendations of the commission, except where they tallied with their own predilections. The commission had no doubt proved a very useful shield for the Government in this respect. When they wanted to add to the salaries of those officers whom they thought fit, it enabled them to do so, while, as regards those officers who might really be deserving of a larger increase than the commission may have thought at the time they were entitled to—having regard to the claims of the whole service and the means at our disposal—the Government fell back upon the report of the commission, and said to those officers they were giving them all the commission had recommended. But he noticed several increases on these Estimates which had not been recommended by the commission; and, had the members of the commission been aware that the revenue would have admitted of additional increases, they would have recom-

mended many more officers than they did and given others a larger increase. He thought it was most unfair that the Government should in this way seek to shelter themselves behind the report of the commission, while, on the other hand, when it suited them, they did not seem to consider themselves at all bound by the recommendations of the commission.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser) said the claims of the Superintendent, of the chief clerk, as well as of other officers, had not escaped the attention of the Government, and he hoped that in the future several of these officers would be promoted. But, looking at the very narrow margin between the estimated revenue and expenditure, he thought hon. members would admit that it would have been impracticable for the Government to have sanctioned any increase this year beyond what was proposed on the Estimates.

**MR. S. H. PARKER**, referring to the items "Coxswain, Water Police, £120, and one Constable, £100," moved that the item be struck out. Successive Governors had expressed an opinion that the Water Police ought to be paid by the Imperial Government, and not out of colonial funds; and, for his own part, he thought the whole force might be dispensed with.

**MR. MARMION** hoped the hon. member would not press his motion to strike out these two items—although he altogether agreed with him that the Water Police should be paid out of Imperial funds. The force was imposed upon the colony in consequence of the Imperial transportation system, and as that system had been brought to a close, he thought the colony ought not to be called upon to pay for the maintenance of the force. At the same time, the Water Police at Fremantle were serviceable in other respects. The unprotected state of the wharves and the goods sheds in the neighborhood of the jetties rendered it absolutely necessary that some protection should be provided for the large quantity of goods and merchandise lying about exposed, in order to prevent their being plundered.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser) explained that the two items referred to had nothing to do with the

Fremantle Water Police. These two officers were employed at Albany.

MR. S. H. PARKER: That being the case, I withdraw my motion to strike them out.

MR. BROWN, referring to the item "Subsidy to Police Benefit Fund (Rewards, £100, Gratuities, £1,200), £1,300," said the select committee appointed to report upon this Benefit Fund considered that about £1,500 a year would be required for the next ten years, to be provided by an annual vote on the Estimates. Could the Colonial Secretary give any information as to how much was likely to be required next year, in addition to the sum of £200 or £300 that would be raised from other sources in the shape of fines and contributions from members of the force?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that every care would be taken to carry out the recommendations of the select committee. The next year being the first year of the new arrangement, it was problematical whether this would be the exact sum required; but, in the future, doubtless the Superintendent of Police, as the head of the department, would annually report as to the adequacy or inadequacy of the provision made on the Estimates. They would be in a better position next year to say what their requirements would be in connection with this fund.

The vote for the Police Department was then passed.

*Gaol Department, Item £8,564:*

MR. BROWN, referring to the item "Provisions, etc., for Prisoners in charge of the Police, £1,000," said he thought it was understood that this sum was to cover the cost of provisions for prisoners who were, so to speak, awaiting their trial, and a great portion of it, he believed, went for providing rations for native prisoners. The select committee upon the Excess Bill had called attention to a matter in connection with this expenditure which revealed a very serious state of things, something like £300 having been expended for provisions for natives in charge of the police, in his own district alone (Gascoyne), during a period of six months. It was found that on one occasion a number of natives waiting for trial remained in charge of the police at Mt. Wittenoom for between

two and three months, fed upon meat (amongst other things) at the high rate of one shilling per lb. He hoped the Government would endeavor to prevent a recurrence of a state of things like that, and see that this money was economically expended, and that natives shall not be kept this unconscionable time in charge of the police, fed at public expense, waiting to have the charges preferred against them investigated.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) believed the case referred to by the hon. member was an exceptional case, and that there was not likely to be a recurrence of it. It appeared that a large proportion of this vote went for rations to prisoners provisioned by the police in the Northern districts of the colony, where rations it appeared were double or treble as high as in these parts. [MR. GRANT: Not meat, surely.] Meat appeared to be the only article which had been charged extortionately, and he should think the settler who supplied the mutton must have considered himself a most fortunate individual. It was not likely to occur again. Bread, it appeared, was charged at a very moderate rate,—2d. per lb.

MR. GRANT presumed that was damper, which could be almost any weight you chose, and charged for accordingly. As to the meat charged at the rate of 1s. a pound, he thought the Government ought to make some inquiry into that. He could hardly think any settler in the district would ever make such a charge.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said his experience went to show that settlers in some instances knew how to charge well enough. That had been his experience when out with survey and exploring parties.

After some remarks from Mr. MAR-MION with reference to the scanty covering provided for native prisoners arriving by the coasting steamers at Fremantle, the vote was agreed to.

*Rottneet Prison Department, Item £3,790:*

MR. SHENTON, referring to the new item "Three night warders at £80 each," hoped the Government in appointing any fresh officers for service at Rottneet would bear in mind the recommendation of the committee, that they should, if

possible, possess some knowledge of farming.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said these night warders were merely intended to replace the military guard. It would be observed that it was proposed to do away with the guard; the present Superintendent had made a very able report on the subject, showing clearly that the substitution of these night warders for the old military guard would be an economical arrangement and an advantageous one.

MR. S. H. PARKER asked how it was the table allowance of the Superintendent had been increased to £30?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that formerly the medical officer only visited the island occasionally, as his services might be required, but arrangements had recently been made for more frequent and regular visits, and, as during his stay on the island, the doctor usually became the guest of the Superintendent, this vote had been increased by £10.

MR. S. H. PARKER: That £10, then, is to feed the doctor?

The vote was then agreed to.

*Printing Department, Item £2,195 14s.:*

MR. S. H. PARKER said the Colonial Secretary had told them more than once that they could not go beyond the increases put down on the Estimates, because the commission on salaries had not recommended any further increase. He would not have objected to this if the Government themselves had adhered to the recommendations of the commission. His Excellency the Governor said he entirely approved of those recommendations; but, notwithstanding all that, whenever the Government thought proper they had ignored or gone beyond the recommendations of the commission. Here was another case in point. The Government Printer was a most deserving officer, and deserved every consideration at the hands of that House. The commission, finding his salary was only £300, and bearing in mind all the circumstances of his position, and that he had a house provided for him, recommended his salary should be increased to £325; but he was down on these Estimates for £350. Had the commission known that the Government would have acted in this way, they would have re-

commended an increase to a great many more officers than they had done, and there were other officers to whom they would have recommended a larger increase than they had felt themselves justified in recommending. He had nothing to say against this particular officer, who did his work admirably, and fully deserved the proposed increase; but there were other officers in the service who were likewise entitled to the same consideration. Therefore he must protest once more on behalf of himself and the other members of the commission against the Government telling any officer that they could not give him any further increase because the commission had not recommended it. When it suited them, the Government adhered to the recommendations of the commission, but when it did not suit them, they put the recommendations of the commission on one side. This was neither fair to the members of the commission, nor to the officers of the public service.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Inspection of Sheep Department, Item £1,812:*

Agreed to without comment.

*Educational Department, Item £10,245:*

MR. S. H. PARKER, referring to the item "One University exhibition, £100," said they had not yet seen the rules which His Excellency had said he would have drawn up, for approval by the House, embodying the conditions of this exhibition and of the two High School scholarships. As to the exhibition, judging from the report of the examiners and of the head master, the conclusion he had come to was that there could not by any possibility be a High School boy competent to qualify himself for University matriculation during the next year, and therefore he saw no necessity for voting this money. He was under the impression, too, that the rules would provide that no boy who had not been two years at the High School would be entitled to compete for this exhibition. If so, this vote would be useless next year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that the rules had not yet been framed, but the matter he believed was under the consideration of the governors of the school. The Government had taken immediate steps to

communicate with the governing body and with the Central Board on this subject, but there had been some hitch in preparing the rules, which no doubt would be explained by one or other of the governors of the school having a seat in the House. Of course, if this money should not be required it would not be spent, and the vote for next year would simply lapse. At the same time it might be desirable to make provision for it, in case it might be required. There might be some youthful genius who would be able to qualify himself for the exhibition.

MR. SHENTON said the reason why the rules had not been framed was because the governors of the High School were in communication with the University authorities in the other colonies, as to the rules of admission. When this information was obtained, the regulations would be framed without delay.

The Educational vote was then agreed to.

*Registry Department, Item £180 :*

MR. S. H. PARKER said, as this seemed a new item on the Estimates, perhaps the Colonial Secretary would not mind giving the committee some information on the subject.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the officer now holding the office of Registrar General in conjunction with that of Secretary to the Board of Education wished to be relieved, in consequence of ill-health, of his duties as Registrar General, and the present intention of the Government was to connect this department with the Land Titles Department.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he could not imagine a greater incongruity than to amalgamate the office of Registrar General with that of the Registrar of Land Titles. The latter was a legal office purely, and it was ridiculous to combine with the duties of that office those appertaining to the office of the Registrar General and the Registrar of Brands.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he did not say that the amalgamation would necessarily be carried out, but it was meditated. The duties of the Registrar of Brands were very trifling, and might be done by the clerk.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Poor Relief Department, Item £7,166 :*

Agreed to, without comment.

*Aboriginal Department, Item £2,250 :*

MR. S. H. PARKER thought the time had arrived when we ought to do more for our aboriginal natives than we were now doing. He thought it was a disgrace to our civilisation to see these wretched people roaming about the streets destitute even of covering and of daily bread. He should be glad if the Government were to take the matter in hand, and endeavor to provide some sort of a home for these natives,—he did not mean in the towns, but some sort of refuge where they would be more in their element. Perhaps the Government would take the subject into their consideration during the recess, and bring forward some scheme for the amelioration of the condition of these natives, next session. He believed the House would be prepared to vote any reasonable sum that might be required for such a purpose.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Government had not lost sight of this subject. Twelve months ago they appointed a Native Commission to go into the whole matter; he did not know exactly whether the Commission was still in existence, or whether it was defunct, and whether there was likely to be any report. All he could say was, the Government had done their duty in the matter, but the result as yet had been *nil*.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he might inform his hon. friend that the Commission was still in existence, and that they had been considering the subject. He hoped, before the session closed, to be able to report as to the result of their deliberations. He might say, as a member of the Commission, that they had found very considerable difficulty in dealing with the subject in a satisfactory manner, and he was sure the Commission would be most happy to receive any suggestions which the hon. member for Perth, whom he was glad to see posing in the character of a philanthropist, might be inclined to offer.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE said the intentions of the hon. member for Perth were no doubt very good, but there were serious difficulties in the way, owing



to the nomadic instincts and the roving disposition of these people. He thought it would be a merciful thing for the natives themselves, if they were excluded from the towns altogether; but he did not see how that could be done without interfering with what was called the liberty of the subject.

Some conversation ensued with reference to the distribution of blankets to natives, and eventually the vote was agreed to as presented.

*Government Storekeeper's Department, Item £765:*

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE asked for some explanation as to the proposed increase in the salary of the Issuer, from £116 to £180.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it was in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission.

MR. SHENTON had hoped the Government would have been prepared with some proposition for reducing the expenditure connected with this department. He understood the principal work in connection with the department had been the issuing of police stores and railway stores; and, as there was not so much work now as there had been, he should have thought the Government might have seen its way clear to have reduced rather than increase this vote.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) did not see how any reorganisation of the department could be undertaken at present, until it was seen how the recommendations of the Commission worked.

The item was then put and passed.

*Government Garden Department, Item £427 15s.:*

Agreed to, without comment.

*Volunteer Department, Item £2,656:*

MR. SHENTON asked for some explanation as to the items "Field Day Expenses, £100," and "Easter Encampment, £200."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, as he understood it would be necessary to recommit this vote, perhaps the hon. member would wait until then for the information which he sought. Meanwhile, he would see the Inspecting Field Officer on the subject.

The vote was then agreed to *pro forma*.

*Special Coast Survey, Item £2,000:*

MR. S. H. PARKER asked the Colonial Secretary if he could furnish the House with an account of how this vote had been expended last year? He thought it would be found anything but satisfactory, and for this reason—the vote was either too small, or it was too large. It was too small to allow of the survey being carried out as it ought to be, and as those in charge of it would wish it to be; and, on the other hand, it was too large a sum to be frittered away. He understood the vote was only just sufficient to pay the officers and the crew for three or four months in the year, and the rest of the year they were compelled to remain idle. He believed the officers, as was usually the case when employed on colonial surveys and paid out of colonial funds, were paid at a most extravagant rate, and he understood the pay of these three gentleman alone absorbed very nearly the whole of the funds, and that very little was left for the crew and to keep the vessel at work. He learned from the best authority, the officers themselves, that surveys carried on with a sailing ship, like the *Meda*, were carried on at a great disadvantage, in our northern latitudes, and that it was impossible for them to do the work satisfactorily without steam power. A sailing vessel was not fit to be employed on our North-West coast, and he should not be surprised some day to hear of her bones being left in one of the creeks up there.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said this expenditure was very closely watched both by the Imperial and Colonial Governments, and the accounts of course could be furnished if required. At the same time he would point out that we could not very well control this expenditure ourselves. The Admiralty, as hon. members were aware, supplied us with the officers, and also paid half the expense of the survey, but on the understanding that the whole cost shall not exceed £4,000 a year. We might of course submit to the Admiralty the desirability of employing a steamer, but they might say they were not prepared to go beyond the amount of their present contribution, and that if we were not satisfied we had better pay the whole expense ourselves. He quite agreed with the hon. member as to the advantages to be gained by the employment of steam

power in lieu of sailing power and manual power, and he knew that the officer in command of the survey felt himself aggrieved because he was unable to do the work as he would like to do it, owing to the time occupied in taking the vessel up to the scene of their labors and the time occupied in bringing her back again, leaving very little time for the actual prosecution of the work of surveying. Of course we could not dictate to the Admiralty how the work should be done. He might add, with reference to the surveys now going on, that in addition to the work done by the *Meda*, Captain Coghlan, having recently had an opportunity of visiting Cambridge Gulf, in a private steam yacht, would be able to furnish us with valuable information with reference to that part of our coast.

MR. BURT thought the committee had good cause of complaint against the Government in this matter. For years past their attention had been drawn to the necessity of supplying the survey party with a steam yacht or cutter of their own. Representations to that effect had been made to the Government over and over again, both by the officer in command of the survey and by the members of that House; yet nothing seemed to have been done. He considered we were simply wasting this £2,000, owing to the want of a steam cutter. Had the Government supplied the surveyors with a cutter, when it was asked to do so two years ago, he submitted with confidence we should have had double the work done for the money. That House could not go into the market and purchase a cutter itself, but the Government could do so, and he hoped that when they met there again another session—he hoped those who did meet there again another session would find that a cutter had been procured for this work.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he thought he might say that the select committee who were now considering the schedule of the proposed public works intended to recommend that provision should be made in the loan bill to defray half the cost of this steam launch, which undoubtedly would prove a most desirable auxiliary to the Admiralty survey.

MR. MARMION said, if necessary, the money might be taken out of general

revenue pending the raising of the loan, and afterwards refunded out of loan money. He thought it would be very undesirable that the *Meda* should proceed to the North-West again next year without a steam launch.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest) said, as to the expense of this survey, he thought the colony was particularly fortunate in getting the Imperial Government to contribute one-half the cost. These surveys up to the present had been entirely devoted to colonial work, and in obtaining information which would be of value to Western Australia alone. For his own part, he thought the work had been most satisfactorily done, and that great energy had been displayed in its prosecution. [MR. PARKER: Everybody admits that.] He might add for the information of the committee that he had received a letter from Captain Coghlan that day, from Port Darwin, whither he had proceeded in the *Cushie Doo*, after visiting Cambridge Gulf. Captain Coghlan informed him that the Victoria River (in South Australia) had been reported upon as unsatisfactory for navigation, and that there was very little doubt that Cambridge Gulf would be the outlet not only of our own territory of the Ord river, but also of the Victoria river country in the northern territory of South Australia. The trip which Captain Coghlan had, through the courtesy of the owner of the *Cushie Doo*, been enabled to make, had been a most economical arrangement for this colony, as it was intended to have despatched the *Meda* there next year, and probably that would have taken up the whole of the working season. Captain Coghlan, however, having now had an opportunity of visiting the place, there would probably be no necessity to send the *Meda* up there, and this would possibly effect a saving to this colony of £1,000 or £1,500.

The vote was then passed, and progress was reported, leave being given to sit again on September 8th.

The House adjourned at eleven o'clock, p.m.