

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 22nd August, 1882.

Grant of Land to Mr. Alexander Forrest—Immigration: Report of Select Committee—Collie and Brunswick Bridges—Width of Tires Bill: second reading—Pearl Shell Fishery Bill: first reading—Scab Act Amendment and Consolidation Bill: third reading—Imported Labor Registry Bill—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

GRANT OF LAND TO MR. ALEXANDER FORREST.

MR. VENN asked the Colonial Secretary: "Whether any reply had been received from the Secretary of State to a resolution of the Legislative Council of this Colony, passed August 24th, 1880, in reference to a grant of land to Mr. Alex. Forrest, in recognition of his services in the exploration of the Kimberley District?"

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said, a reply had been received, and that the Secretary of State had approved of 2,000 acres of land being selected by Mr. Forrest in the Kimberley District.

IMMIGRATION: REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. BROWN moved, That the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the question of immigration be adopted. Hon. members had the report before them, and possibly all of them had read it. It would be observed that the Select Committee had not seen their way clear to attempt any very great alteration in the existing system of immigration. Hon. members were aware that that system, for some time past, had been confined almost solely to the nominated system, and the Select Committee considered that it might be very largely developed, and that, if developed to the extent which they considered it capable of, it would meet the present requirements of the Colony, so far as the means at our command would admit of. Up to about eighteen months or two years ago, it was impossible, under the nomination system then in vogue, for

persons resident in this Colony, requiring labor from England, to have an agent in that country to nominate the emigrants for them; they were obliged to do that here. The result was, unless the person nominating had a very extensive circle of acquaintances indeed, in the old country, it was obviously impossible, so long as that rule remained in force, for anyone to nominate but a very limited number of immigrants, and consequently the supply was very short of the demand. The Government, however, had changed that, and, under the system now in operation, all that was wanted was that the person requiring labor from England should state the number and class of immigrants he wanted, and name somebody at home whom he proposed to employ to select them for him. The responsibility of selection thus rested with himself, through his own authorised agent; but there was no necessity for the nominator here to furnish any particulars beyond specifying the number and description of labor which he required. He thought when this fact became widely known, by publicity through the press of the Colony and otherwise, it would be found that a much larger number of immigrants would be imported in the future than in the past. It would also be observed that the Select Committee recommended a revival of the regulation which was in force a few years ago, under which immigrants were allowed to select free grants of land, upon certain conditions as to occupancy and improvements. Although he was aware that, under the conditions formerly insisted upon, that regulation had proved a failure, and that there were very good reasons at the time for its abolition, still, under the modified and more liberal conditions recommended by the Select Committee, he thought it might be desirable to revive that regulation, and that it might operate as an inducement to immigrants to come here, not only from England but from the other colonies. The recommendation of the Select Committee on this point was that free grants of land be made to immigrants (on the conditions contained in clauses 112 and 113 of the existing Land Regulations), on the following scale: for each married couple 100 acres; for each unmarried immigrant of twenty-one years

of age and upwards, 50 acres; for each immigrant under twenty-one years of age, 25 acres,—provided always that not more than 200 acres be allotted to one family. Under the former regulations the maximum number of acres for one family was 150 acres. The Committee, however, recommended that no immigrant shall be entitled to select any land until he has been two years in the Colony. With regard to the maximum area of land to be selected by one family (200 acres), he was aware that some hon. members were of opinion that there should be no limitation—that, as we require population, the man with a large family ought not to be handicapped; and he must admit that there was a good deal in that argument. But one reason probably why it was considered advisable to limit the quantity of land to be granted to any single family of immigrants was that it was undesirable to give a man more land than he could profitably utilise within a reasonable time. The generality of immigrants coming out here would be people having large families but without any large capital, and probably it was considered that 150 or 200 acres was as much as a man with a large family of young children could make use of, under the conditions imposed as to cultivation and fencing. Another recommendation of the Committee was, that blocks of land in the vicinity of railway lines and elsewhere should be plotted and set apart for selection by immigrants; also that full information, together with maps of the Colony, should be supplied to the immigration agents in England, and also to any other gentlemen voluntarily offering their services to assist in the selection of immigrants for Western Australia. The only other recommendation embodied in the report to which he need refer was that relating to female immigration. The Committee recommended that the nomination system should be supplemented by the introduction of a number of female domestic servants—about 60 annually—to be introduced in batches of twenty at a time. There was a great demand for this class of servants, and the Committee had ascertained that there would be no difficulty in arranging for the comfortable accommodation of the girls in the immi-

gration depôt until such time as suitable situations were found for them. In conclusion, the Committee pointed out that these proposals would require a vote of no less than £6,000 for immigration purposes, and they recommended that this sum be placed on next year's Estimates in order to enable the Government to carry out their suggestions. He begged to move the adoption of the report.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow), in rising to support the motion, said he was not unmindful that the Government had been twitted in that House with the fact that their policy as regards immigration showed no originality, that they were content to go on in the same old groove, and that hitherto we had not got much for what we had expended in this direction. He was afraid that the charge, however easy to make, was one which it was very difficult, if not impossible, to obviate. The circumstances of the Colony were so narrow that it was impossible for the greatest amount of ingenuity—the greatest amount of genius, he might say—to strike out any very original line with regard to its immigration policy. The Colony was so poor, and offered so little attraction to immigrants, that it appeared to him it would be impossible for us to offer any greater inducements than we had done, namely, a free passage out, and a small bonus in land. It was out of our power to give the new comer a bonus in money, as we could not afford it; and the circumstances of the Colony generally were not such that we could hold out such inducements to immigrants as wealthier, more prosperous, and more populous countries offered. Therefore, he thought we were bound, as regards our immigration policy, to adhere very much to the lines sketched out by the Select Committee. That brought him to the question of nomination. It appeared to him there were two systems of nomination, but he did not understand at present that we had gone so far as to try more than one. People here nominate persons who are known to them in England, and those people know the nominators here. That was very easily done. He did not think we required the services of any very skilled agent to act as a go-between the

nominator here and his old acquaintances at home. But he should like to see the nomination system carried out in a wider sphere. He should like to see people here nominating not individuals but nominating generally,—say 50 or 100, or as many as they could afford to employ. In that case, you would require something more than a mere friend or acquaintance as a go-between. You would require an agent, you would require a paid agent, you would require a skilled paid agent. You would then be able to utilise your nominated system in a far more useful way than at present—for he did not care how many gentlemen, well disposed towards the Colony, there might be in England, ready to volunteer their services in the selection of immigrants, the fact remained that unpaid labor was never so good as paid labor. However anxious these gentlemen might be to serve the Colony, they would never take the requisite pains—they could not be expected to take the requisite pains—to bring the necessary information to the ears and to the eyes of intending emigrants, as if they were paid for their services. Therefore, he said, if it was the desire of the House—and of course it was the desire of the House—to see an appreciable increase in the number of immigrants arriving in the Colony, he felt satisfied we must exercise a wider system of nomination than is exercised at present, and in order to do that, in order to enlarge the sphere of our operations, the Select Committee would have to go a little further than they went in this report,—not perhaps this Session, or in a year or two, but before long it must come; and a future Select Committee would find it necessary to recommend that House to vote the payment of a good round sum to an agent in England to select and to point out to intending immigrants the advantages which this Colony offers as a profitable field for honest labor and industry.

MR. CROWTHER: I think I need scarcely say that this question of immigration is the question of all questions for Western Australia. It certainly is one of the most important questions likely to occupy our attention during this Session. With regard to the report now before us, I am sure if we look at the names of the gentlemen who formed this

Select Committee, everyone in the House, and out of it, must acknowledge that they could have but one object in view, namely, the advancement of the interests of the Colony. And although, as regards some of their recommendations, they have gone somewhat further than we have gone of late years, yet, in the opinion of some people, myself amongst the number, they have not gone quite far enough. While, however, I cannot agree with all their recommendations I am quite prepared to agree to differ with them, for I am sure they are as likely to be correct in their views as I am. At the same time I am vain enough to believe that some of my recommendations will be found more advantageous to the Colony than some of those contained in this report. I take it that the first thing to be done with your immigrant is to catch him, and the next thing to be considered is what to do with him when you do catch him. With regard to catching our immigrants, a very good suggestion is offered in this report, that, in the case of those who are too poor to pay their expenses from their houses to the port of embarkation in England, the agent should defray their expenses. So far, so good. But the Committee go on, and recommend that this should only be done on the certificate of the minister of the parish, or of the head constable. Without pretending to speak with a general knowledge of what exists in all parts of England, I may say that, in my own native village, if you went to inquire about intending immigrants to the head constable, that local functionary would probably refer you to the parson, and the parson in his turn would take his cue from the squire of the parish; and these are the very people who would be interested in keeping good and useful men in the parish. That appears to me a blot upon this report, and I would suggest that any immigrant who may desire to come out here should be allowed to get his certificate not only from the clergyman of the parish, but from any other minister, or any man of known respectability, to whom the agent could refer. The suggestion as to paying the fares of these men from their country villages to London, and putting them in the way of getting there, is a very good suggestion, for we all know that a journey to "Lunnon" is a greater bug-

bear to the generality of agricultural laborers in England than the voyage out is. To the majority of them, London exists only in books and in history, and a journey thence from their native wilds is regarded as fraught with quite as much peril as the circumnavigation of the globe, and they would as soon think of undertaking the one as the other. Under these circumstances, I am glad it is proposed that our immigration agent should act as the "guide, philosopher, and friend" of these poor people, and that their expenses to London shall be defrayed, as well as their passage out. Another valuable suggestion is, that, in some cases, where the friends of these immigrants, on their arrival at Fremantle, are not in a position to pay their travelling expenses from Fremantle to the district in which they are to reside, the Government should be authorised to incur the cost of despatching the new arrivals to their destination. But I think this recommendation should apply to all immigrants. I think that every new comer should be despatched to his destination free of cost. It is all very well to say that if the person who nominated the immigrant can afford to do so, he should be required to pay; but we know very well that this would simply mean that the immigrant, in the long run, would have to pay himself, and the man would thus commence his labors in his new home by what is vulgarly termed "working a dead horse," which is not an exhilarating occupation, but, on the contrary, would tend very much to discourage and dishearten a new comer. The report states that there are gentlemen in England acquainted with the requirements of the Colony, who would be willing to act as a medium of communication between the nominator here and his nominees at home, and who would act generally in conjunction with our immigration agents. I venture to say that these gentlemen, however desirous they may be to serve us, have business of their own to attend to, and these are not the men we want to act in this capacity. No doubt they may be animated by the best and most benevolent intentions possible, towards the Colony itself and the intending emigrant, but I do not believe they are ever likely to be of any real service to us

in the matter of the selection of immigrants. With regard to the Committee's proposal for giving free grants of land to these new comers, I cannot think that the recommendation, as it stands, has much to commend it. It is proposed to give each married couple 100 acres; a single immigrant 50 acres, and a family 200 acres. Now we all know that in Western Australia anything less than a good square mile will not keep a family, and it is no use putting these people on a piece of land that will not support them. At present the majority of our agriculturists simply exist—they do not live, the reason being this: when they started operations they over-valued the capabilities of the soil, or, in other words, they commenced farming with too small a quantity of land. What I would like to see done with reference to grants of land for immigrants would be this: that, attached to this 200 acres which it is proposed to give to families, there should be 300 acres more, for which I would charge the immigrant a nominal rent, the same as the sheep farmer pays for his run, for a certain number of years; at the end of which I would let him have this land by paying the same rate as the S.O.L. holder pays, 1s. an acre, for so many years, on the understanding that the holder of it carried out such conditions as to improvements as the Government in its wisdom might choose to impose. A man with a family might then have a chance of at any rate earning his daily bread. But it appears to me that to tell an immigrant, who has newly arrived in the Colony, and who is possessed of no money of his own, and possibly not much experience of farming life,—to send such a man say to York, give him a 200-acre block, and tell him that if he encloses it with a good substantial fence, and brings one-fourth of it under cultivation, within five years, the land shall be his own—is simply to obtain immigrants under false pretences. It is tantamount to telling a man he must devote £1 a week to the improvement of this land, from the day of his arrival in the Colony until the expiration of the five years; for I reckon that a 200-acre block would require three miles of fencing to enclose it, and, judging from the cost of fencing in my district, I do not believe any fencing

that would be recognised as such by law could be done at less than £60 or £70 a mile. This would mean, in the case of a 200-acre block, about £210. Then he would have to clear a fourth of this land, which would cost another £50; making altogether £260. So that it would take a man £1 a week for five years to carry out the conditions imposed upon him, under the proposed regulation. I think myself this period of five years ought to be extended to ten, if a man finds he is unable to fulfil the conditions within the shorter term. I also fail to see why these immigrants should not on any consideration be entitled to select land until they have been two years in the Colony. Some of our settlers may nominate friends at home, and when they come out here may wish to settle them upon their land at once, and, for my own part, I fail to see why we should debar a man from doing so, and let him become a useful colonist, without any unnecessary loss of time. I am sorry the Committee did not go a little further in dealing with this land grant system. They seem to have confined their attention to one class of immigration alone—the agriculturist. I should have liked if they had also seen their way clear to give some inducement to the mining class. I think it is a great pity that immigrants whose avocations lead them to reside in a mineral district should not be allowed to utilise their plot of ground for the purposes of cultivation. To my mind there would be no difficulty in doing this. I fail to see why land in our mineral districts should not be leased on the same principle as special occupation licenses in other parts of the Colony. The mere fact of a man working a piece of land on the surface does not prevent another from working it under the surface, and, in the event of a cultivated piece of ground being required for mining purposes, I see no difficulty in arranging the amount of compensation by arbitration. I therefore repeat, I think something ought to be done to meet the special requirements of other classes of immigrants than the farm laborer, pure and simple. I was shown the other day, by Mr. Dale, the immigration agent, a list of immigrants who are coming out in one of our wool vessels, and amongst them I noticed an artizan with a family of seven or eight children.

Now, to turn that man into the bush, to live on 200 acres of land, would be simply to put the Government to the expense of a funeral. He knows nothing about farming, but he may be an excellent mechanic, and his labor as an artizan would be of as much value to the Colony, and is as much a necessity, as that of the farm laborer. There ought to be no difficulty in that man selecting a grant of land within some townsite, where his services would be utilised,—but not to give him the fee simple until he had fulfilled certain conditions. If it pays the Colony to go to the expense of getting tradesmen and mechanics out here, it will pay the Colony equally so to go to the expense of retaining them here. As to the services of skilled and well paid immigration agents, and furnishing them with maps of the Colony and all that, I am afraid these are not altogether the most useful class of agents we could employ, with the present means at our command. I think the best immigration agent we could have would be such a man as the hon. member Mr. S. S. Parker, of York, spoke to me about the other day,—a man who, after a few years of honest labor and industry in the Colony, is now in a position to return to his native village, where he will be ranked as a man of wealth and looked up to with honor and respect. These are the sort of men which I would appoint as our Agents General. Let this stamp of colonist be empowered to enlist among the ranks of his own acquaintances those of them who are prepared to try their fortunes in the Colony,—men whom he could, from his own practical experience, recommend as likely to fulfil the requirements of our labor markets. I would look for more practical and beneficial results from the labors of a man like this, and from the living example which he showed in his own person of how a man may in these colonies succeed in life by honest labor and industry, than from the paid services of any number of skilled agents, or the voluntary services of good-natured gentlemen in England, who have their own private business to attend to. If the Select Committee will take these few hints and work them into practical shape, and if this House should think fit to endorse them, I feel sure that His Excellency Sir William Robinson will do all within his

power to carry out our wishes in this respect, for, in doing so, we should undoubtedly be promoting the best interests of the Colony.

MR. BURGESS said he knew the person referred to by the hon. member for the Greenough, and he could fully endorse all that had been said with reference to his being the type of a most desirable class of colonist, and, if the Government were to employ men of this stamp to try and induce others to come out here from the old country, they would do the Colony a good turn. If we succeeded in obtaining suitable immigrants, our policy ought to be to treat them liberally, and, as regards their bit of land, give them ample time to comply with the conditions as regards fencing and cultivation. These people could not carry out improvements at once; they were not used to our system of farming, and had to serve a sort of apprenticeship before they could hope to do much good with their land. He thought we might even allow them ten years, before they forfeited their grants.

MR. RANDELL would cordially support the proposition that certificates should be granted to intending emigrants at home by the ministers of any denomination, rather than the parish clergyman only. He was sure this would go a long way to remove the objection referred to by the hon. member for Greenough, as to the parish clergyman and the parish squire being desirous of retaining all the really useful class of servants in the district rather than inducing them to emigrate. He should, therefore, be glad to see the report altered in this respect. With reference to the question of giving land to immigrants, he had very grave doubts as to the system working beneficially, looking at it by the light of past experience. In many cases those who had had land given to them, finding they would not be able to utilise it, had disposed of it for a mere song to other people, who, in their turn, sold it again, and made money by the transaction. The system was hampered with such severe conditions as regards improvements that it was impossible for the ordinary class of immigrants to fulfil them. Another evil in connection with it was that the town lots which had been granted to immigrants were, as a rule, so situated as to

be practically useless to them, and the result was, the new comers endeavored to dispose of them, and offered them for a mere song. He had heard of one 100-acre block being offered for sale for £6, and an intending buyer who went to look at it said if he had £20 given to him with it he would not take it, situated where it was, and having to fulfil the required conditions as to occupancy and improvements. It was only a delusion and a snare offering grants like this to immigrants; it only discouraged and disheartened them to find that they had been deceived, and induced to come out under what might be called false pretences. If they were going to continue, or rather to resume the system of free grants of land to immigrants, the land given to them ought to be situated in accessible localities, and of good quality—land which could be profitably utilised, and within easy reach of a market. He quite agreed with the suggestion that the time for fulfilling the conditions as regards improvements should be extended, and otherwise modified; in other words, that every possible encouragement should be held out to immigrants to settle down in the Colony and make it their adopted home. Unless this were done,—if they were simply going to resume the regulations formerly in vogue—it would be better not to offer any such inducements to people, as it only caused disappointment, and made them dissatisfied with their lot and with the Colony. Better to let them come without any expectation of receiving any land, and let them fight their way amongst us to the best of their ability, relying entirely upon their own resources. He thought the suggestion as to having a paid agent to look up immigrants at home, in preference to the present system of honorary agency, was a good one, and far more likely to result in our getting a suitable class of immigrants. No doubt the gentlemen who acted in the capacity of emigration agents for us now did their best, so far as could be expected of them. He knew very well they got so pestered with letters from intending emigrants that, very naturally, they got disgusted, and declined to answer them, as it was too much of a tax upon their time. And so the thing failed. He thought an excellent opportunity was afforded the

Government to secure the services of the person referred to by the hon. member for Greenough, and there was no doubt that by utilising the services of such a man they would be conferring a real benefit upon the Colony.

MR. BROWN thought the hon. member for Greenough and the hon. member Mr. Randell had misunderstood the report of the Select Committee as regards the recommendation relating to the services of the minister of the parish or the head constable. It was not suggested for a moment that these functionaries should be made the medium for nominating emigrants at home, but merely that a certificate from either of them should be required to be forwarded by the intending emigrants to the emigration agent, before their fare to London was paid. It was necessary to have some persons of known respectability to give these certificates. As to the appointment of a paid agent, that question did not escape the attention of the Select Committee, the members of which, while approving of it in the abstract, did not feel justified in recommending the proposal for the acceptance of the House in the present state of the Colony, when such a very small sum was appropriated for immigration purposes. It would be no use having an agent to represent us unless we had a good man and paid him a good salary, which the Committee thought would involve an expenditure probably of from £1200 to £1500 a year, and this they considered a very large amount indeed when it was only proposed to devote £5000 to immigration purposes altogether.

MR. SHENTON said one of the reasons which had induced the Select Committee to adhere to the present nomination system was the information received from Mr. Dale, the local immigration agent, that there were no lack of nominations—that the numbers nominated were in excess of the funds available, but that a difficulty arose in England as regards paying the railway fares of intending emigrants from the country to London. As to establishing a paid agency, however desirable such a step might be, he was afraid the Colony could not yet afford it; and he thought it would be as well to give the present system another trial, under the modified

regulations recommended by the Select Committee.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved, That Progress be reported, in order that an opportunity be afforded the hon. member for Greenough to formulate the amendments which he had suggested, and which appeared to meet with general approval.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) failed to see what was to be gained by reporting Progress. The amendments suggested were very simple ones, and might be made there and then.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) thought it was simply wasting the time of the House, these motions to report Progress at every possible stage.

On the question that Progress be reported being put, a division was called for, and resulted as follows:—

Ayes	9
Noes	9

AYES.

Mr. Brown
Mr. Burt
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Mr. Marmion
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Venn
Mr. S. H. Parker (Teller.)

NOES.

The Hon. A. C. Onslow
Mr. Burges
Mr. Carey
Mr. Glyde
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Randell
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Steere
Lord Gifford (Teller.)

The numbers being equal,

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES gave his casting vote with the Ayes. In doing so he said it was usual for the Chairman to give his casting vote in such a way as not to preclude a reconsideration of the question under discussion. In this instance the occasion did not afford an opportunity for him to give his vote in accordance with that rule, but he thought it was his duty to give it in such a way as would ensure most time being given to the consideration of the report before the Committee.

Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again another day.

COLLIE AND BRUNSWICK BRIDGES.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to lay upon the Table of the House the following documents:— (1.) The original specification furnished by Public Works Department, in January last, to Resident Magistrate, Bunbury, of timber required for repairs

"of Collie and Brunswick Bridges. The "Bunbury Jarrah Company's tender for same. And the Acting Director of "Public Works' letter of 4th February, "notifying acceptance of tender. (2.) "The order or memo. of lengths and "sizes of timber required for repairs to "Collie and Brunswick Bridges, as supplied to the Bunbury Jarrah Company "by Superintendent of Roads, dated "27th March, 1882. (3.) The whole of "the correspondence that has taken place "to date, between the Government and "the Bunbury Jarrah Company, relative "to the above specifications and payment for timber supplied. (4.) The "Resident Magistrate's report of his examination of the bridge near Trigwell's, "Preston, for which the Public Works "Department advertised for tenders to "execute repairs, &c., in January last." The hon. member said he was induced to move for these documents owing to the reply he received the other evening from the noble lord when he asked for them before, namely, that they were documents of a nature which made it necessary for an Address to be presented to His Excellency before they could be produced. He therefore now moved an Address to that effect. While on his legs he wished to avail himself of the opportunity of stating that, in moving in this matter, he was acting in no way in connection with the Bunbury Jarrah Company, who, he believed, did not approve of his taking any action in the matter.

The motion, which was seconded by Mr. STEERE, was agreed to.

WIDTH OF TIRES BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow), without comment, moved that the Width of Tires Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read a second time *sub silentio*.

PEARL SHELL FISHERY BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow), in accordance with notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to make further provision for the regulation of the Pearl Shell Fishery.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time,

SCAB ACT AMENDMENT AND CONSOLIDATION BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

IMPORTED LABOR REGISTRY BILL.

This Bill was further considered in Committee.

Clause 11:

Question—That the words moved by the ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) be added to the clause (*vide* p. 170 *ante*)—put and passed, without discussion.

MR. BROWN pointed out that the same objection which he had raised the other evening as regards the 7th clause—and which was removed by the introduction of a few words, rendering it open for certificates to be granted by any Government medical officer—applied also to the 12th clause, which, as at present worded, rendered it necessary that all contracts shall be explained to the laborer in the presence of the Resident Magistrate at or nearest to the port at which such laborer shall have been landed. The amendment which had been just agreed to in the 11th clause made it still more necessary to amend the 12th clause.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved, That Progress be reported, and leave given to sit again another day (August 24th).

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 23rd August, 1882.

Expenditure on First Section Eastern Railway—Persons employed on Eastern and Northern Railways—Jetty Accommodation at Fremantle in connection with the Eastern Railway—Financial Statement—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS,