

Question—That clause 1 stand part of the Bill—put.

Committee divided.

Ayes 10

Noes 10

AYES.

Mr. Brown
Mr. Burt
Mr. Carey
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Grant
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Higham
Sir L. S. Leake
Mr. Steere
Mr. S. H. Parker (Teller.)

NOES.

The Hon. R. T. Golds-
worthy
The Hon. G. W. Leake
The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Burgess
Mr. Marmion
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Randall
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Venn
Mr. Stone (Teller.)

There being an equal number of votes, the Chairman gave his casting vote with the Ayes.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 4 agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 31 read with the amendments proposed by the Select Committee and agreed to.

Schedules 1, 2, and 3 read with the amendments proposed by the Select Committee and agreed to.

Preamble and Title agreed to, and Bill reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 26th August, 1880.

Inspectors of Sheep: Disposal of Penalties—Estimates: in committee—Message (No. 13)—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

INSPECTORS OF SHEEP: DISPOSAL OF PENALTIES.

MR. BURT, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, "Whether or not the Inspectors

"first appointed under the Scab-in-Sheep Ordinance, 1866, were given to understand by the Government that the penalties, or any part thereof, recovered under the said Act on the information of the Inspectors, were to be paid to them; and whether such penalties or any part thereof have or has been hitherto paid to the Inspectors; and if so, is any alteration in this course contemplated by the Government."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he was not then prepared with a reply. (*Vide p. 248.*)

ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of Supply for the consideration of the Estimates.

IN COMMITTEE.

Governor's Establishment, Item £487 9s. 2d.:

MR. STEERE: Before passing on to the consideration of the Estimates, I should like to say a few words in reply to what fell from the Colonial Secretary when making his financial statement, and more particularly with reference to the answer given by the hon. gentleman to the question put to him with reference to the estimated revenue, by the hon. member for Geraldton. The hon. gentleman's reply was, that he could only refer the House for information on that subject to the Governor's Speech at the opening of the Council. He was not able to furnish any particulars as to how the amount of revenue estimated for the year had been arrived at, or how it was expected to realise the anticipations which the Government had formed with respect to it. I think the hon. gentleman will find it necessary for him to supply the House with some additional information on these points before the Appropriation Act is passed. I hope hon. members this Session are not going to initiate a new system of dealing with the estimates of revenue, and be content to put up with such explanation as was afforded in the speech with which His Excellency inaugurated the Session. Surely the House is entitled to some further information beyond the mere assumption that the revenue for the year is likely to reach a certain lump sum. I hope the Committee

will not consent to vote away items of expenditure unless they have some idea where the ways and means to meet such expenditure is expected. I should have wished that in this as in other respects the financial statement delivered by the hon. gentleman had not been so meagre; but as the hon. gentleman did not think fit to amplify it, I shall say no more with reference to the subject at present. With regard to the vote now before the Committee, I think it is due to the House that we should be placed in possession of some more satisfactory explanation as to the object for which the item "Aide-de-camp, £118 12s. 6d.," is required. We were told the other day it was for the purpose of obtaining the services in that capacity of an infantry officer; otherwise, I suppose we should not be asked to vote the money at all. But I think we ought to have some more satisfactory information than that as to the purposes for which the vote is required—whether it is intended to bring out an officer from England to fill the appointment, or how, otherwise, it is going to be filled. I shall not take the trouble to oppose the vote, if the intention is to furnish His Excellency with an aide-de-camp connected with the army, as was the late aide-de-camp; but if it is merely put on the Estimates so as to swell the pay of some other officer already in the colonial service, I shall certainly oppose it. I do not think that is a proper or straightforward course to adopt, in asking the House to vote a sum of money.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): Before the hon. member characterises the conduct of the Government as lacking in propriety and straightforwardness, he should make himself perfectly sure on the subject, and not hazard such remarks merely at random. The hon. member has asked to be satisfied as to whether any officer now in the Colonial Service is going to enjoy this magnificent salary of £118 12s. 6d., or whether it is proposed to obtain the services of an infantry officer from the Army. I have already told the House that at present the Private Secretary is performing the duties appertaining to the office of aide-de-camp, at half-pay, and this sum has been placed on the Estimates with a view to enable His Excellency to have a paid aide-de-

camp, and not be subjected to what he has recently been—to be dependent upon the courtesy of an unpaid aide-de-camp, who the other day resigned his appointment. I have no doubt His Excellency has already made his arrangements for filling the appointment: all I know about the matter is, that I was directed to place on the Estimates a sufficient sum to provide for the pay of an infantry officer. As to the hon. member's complaint about the meagreness of the financial statement, I told him and the House on the occasion of making that statement that it was not my intention then to enter into details, as I thought the proper time to do that was when the Estimates came to be considered in Committee. It appears to me a great deal of unnecessary time would have been wasted had I adopted the course which the hon. member seems to think I ought to have done. The hon. member must be aware that it is not customary to bring forward the Estimates of Revenue before the Expenditure is decided upon. The Government are responsible for providing ways and means to carry out such expenditure, and are quite prepared to accept the responsibility.

MR. STEERE said the explanation furnished as to the aide-de-camp was certainly not a satisfactory one, for the hon. gentleman had not stated whether the amount placed on the Estimates was for providing pay for an officer from Home, or whether it was intended to swell the salary of somebody already in the Colonial Service. As to its not being customary when making a financial statement to enter into the question of revenue, he could only say that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in England invariably did so; and that was the course formerly adopted here. It certainly seems to me the most reasonable and obvious course to pursue.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) pointed out the inconvenience which must necessarily accrue to the Governor, if deprived of the services of an aide-de-camp, to enable His Excellency to discharge, with becoming dignity, those social duties which his position entailed upon him. Governor Ord had an aide-de-camp whose pay was partly provided by the House, and it would be too invidious a distinction—

almost a personal distinction—to draw between the present and the late Governor, if the House refused to pass this vote.

MR. CROWTHER said what had fallen from the Attorney General as to the necessity for the Governor to maintain the dignity of his position was endorsed by every member of the House. The only thing was—they wanted some definite reply, a straightforward answer to a straightforward question, whether this appointment was to be given to Jones or to Smith.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he was unable to answer the question. For all he knew, His Excellency might have already sent for an aide-de-camp. It certainly was not intended that this sum should be placed on the Estimates for the purpose of adding to anyone's salary.

MR. STEERE: Is it intended to appoint a fresh officer, out of the Colony, to the post?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): Yes, I believe so. Surely we may leave it to His Excellency to make his own selection.

MR. STEERE: We don't want to know who he is, we merely wish to ascertain whether it is intended to bring an officer out from Home, or appoint someone in the Colony.

MR. BROWN did not think there was any intention whatever on the part of any hon. member to act invidiously in this matter towards one Governor more than another—far from it. What they had to consider was whether the circumstances of the Colony at the present moment were such as to warrant this expenditure, and whether it was a necessary expenditure. From what he had himself noticed, he was quite satisfied that such an officer ought to be attached to the Governor's establishment, and therefore he intended to vote for the item. He was sorry, however, to find that His Excellency contemplated going out of the Colony to fill the appointment: he thought there were plenty of officers belonging to our local Volunteers who would discharge the duties with credit to themselves and to the satisfaction of His Excellency. He would have had much more pleasure in supporting the vote, if he thought the office was going to be filled by a local man, and he hoped His

Excellency would not consider himself debarred from making a local appointment if he did not succeed in getting an aide-de-camp from England.

MR. BURT was afraid this was the thin end of the wedge towards creating a military establishment in connection with the gubernatorial establishment. Did the Colonial Secretary mean to tell them that any military officer, whether cavalry or infantry, was going to come out here as aide-de-camp for a paltry £2 a week? He expected that the very first item on the Estimates next year would be a sum of £200 to enable the aide-de-camp to maintain himself. If the duties could be—as they now were—performed by a gentleman already connected with the Governor's establishment, he would prefer supporting such an arrangement as that, than introducing an officer from Home.

MR. MARMION felt quite content to leave the matter entirely in the Governor's own hands, and thought the Committee was in duty bound to pass the vote.

The item "Governor's Establishment, £437 9s. 2d.," was then agreed to.

Legislative Council, Item £700:

Agreed to without discussion.

Colonial Secretary's Department, Item £1407:

MR. STEERE said he would like some explanation as to what it was proposed to do with the "First clerk and Registrar General" now connected with this department. Hon. members were aware that the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the expenditure of the department for next year discovered that the services of this officer were not required in the Colonial Secretary's Office, and the Committee in their report (*vide* p. 200 *ante*) recommended that some re-arrangement should be made by the Government so as to permit Mr. Eliot's office to be removed, and his services transferred elsewhere. He would like to know what arrangement the Government proposed to make.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he was not in the House when the Committee brought up their report, nor had he yet seen it in print. It would be manifestly unfair towards the officer in question to turn

him adrift, unless there was another vacancy for him.

MR. STEERE said the Committee never recommended that Mr. Eliot's services should be dispensed with, but they thought some re-arrangement should be made by the Government so as to permit of his office being removed from the Colonial Secretary's, the Committee considering that it was a bad principle to have an officer in any department where he held the position of a subordinate, while at the same time he was the head of another department, as in the case of Mr. Eliot.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he could not at that moment say what arrangements would be made, but if the hon. member would remind him of the matter again, when the Estimates were re-committed (as no doubt they would have to be), he might be able to afford him the information which he desired.

The vote was then agreed to.

Treasury Department, Item £855 :

Agreed to without discussion.

Audit Department, Item £1,115 :

MR. STEERE said he noticed there was a fresh appointment in connection with this department in the shape of an additional clerk and examiner at a salary of £150 a year. Surely it was not intended there should be two examiners in connection with this department; they had already a "chief clerk and examiner."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he was going to suggest that the title of the chief clerk should be "inspector of accounts," as that officer frequently had to go from head quarters for that purpose. The necessity for an additional clerk and examiner was fully explained in the following paragraph from His Excellency's Speech when opening the Session: "Papers relating to the strength of the staff of the Audit Department will be communicated to you. I found in April last that the examination of the accounts was then about seven months in arrear, and, in view of the great importance of a prompt and efficient audit, I authorised a temporary increase of the staff for the purpose of wiping off arrears and bringing the work up to date. I think

"you will agree with me that all accounts should be audited within three months at the latest, and I am sure you will readily assent to the slight permanent addition to his staff which the Auditor General says will be necessary in order to enable this to be done in the future."

MR. SHENTON said, as it was proposed to alter the whole system of audit, this fresh item ought to be struck out until they knew what new system would be adopted. It appeared to him that the whole department would have to be re-organised. If it were found that any addition to the staff will be necessary, the matter might be brought before the House next Session; the Governor in the meantime would have the power to appoint a fresh officer, pending the approval of the Council. He found from his own experience as an employer of clerical labour that the greater number one had in his office the less work was done, as a rule. He should move that the item "Additional Clerk and Examiner, £150," be struck out.

MR. STEERE said he did not agree at all with what had fallen from the hon. member for Toodyay—that if the House struck out the item, and the Governor found it was necessary to have such an officer, it would be competent for His Excellency to appoint one, without the sanction or vote of the House.

MR. BROWN would oppose the item being struck out, for he understood it had been actually ascertained by the Government that it was absolutely necessary to increase the staff of this department. The Government seemed now to be alive to the fact complained of—that there had been an immense amount of confusion in the classification of accounts in the Audit Office. He should therefore vote for this increase to the staff, so that the Government could have no excuse hereafter if the public accounts were not properly kept.

MR. MARMION said he had before him the recommendation appended by Governor Ord to the Report of the Commission appointed last year to report upon the various Departments with a view to their re-organisation. He noticed that the proposed staff for the Audit Department consisted of three clerks (in addition to the Auditor General), and it was generally understood at the time

that the Executive were quite satisfied with the proposed re-organisation. He did not know what increase of work there was in connection with the department to justify another clerk being appointed.

MR. CROWTHER pointed out that the work in the office was several months in arrear, and he thought it was very necessary that this arrear should be overtaken. In the face of this necessity, he thought the House was bound to vote this amount, otherwise the responsibility would rest with the Council in the event of further confusion, whereas if they increased the staff as the Government asked them to do, there would be no excuse for arrears or confusion hereafter.

MR. BURT thought the Government ought to be very gratified indeed at the exceedingly generous manner in which the House provided for the requirements of the Public Service. He accepted this fresh appointment as an earnest on the part of the Government that, in future, they intended to keep the public accounts in a systematic and intelligible way; and in that expectation, he should vote for the item.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The vote for the Audit Department was then agreed to as printed.

MESSAGE (No. 13) FROM HIS EXCEL- LENCY THE GOVERNOR.

THE SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency The Governor, in reply to Mr. Steere's motion of the 24th August:

"In part reply to Address No. 23, of the 24th instant, the Governor informs Your Honorable Council that the Deputy Surveyor General and Acting Comptroller of Convicts now receives half salary as Deputy Surveyor General, viz.:—£175 per annum, and his full allowance of £150 from Colonial Funds. For the first three months of his acting appointment he received full salary and allowances from Colonial Funds. These arrangements were approved by the late Governor when making the acting appointment.

"The Governor's Minute relating to Mr. Forrest's appointment is forwarded for the information of the Council.

"Mr. Forrest's services are likely to be required in the Convict Department until Mr. Stone's return.

"Government House, Perth, 26th August, 1880."

ESTIMATES.

IN COMMITTEE.

The House again resolved itself into a Committee of Supply.

Survey Department, Item £7,920:

MR. STEERE, referring to the first item under the head of salaries "Deputy Surveyor General, £350," said it appeared from the Message which His Excellency had just sent down to the House that this officer was only drawing half salary as Deputy Surveyor General; consequently of course there would be no necessity for voting his full salary for the ensuing year. They had no definite answer as to how long the present arrangement was likely to continue, but merely that Mr. Forrest's services will be required in the Convict Department "until Mr. Stone returns." That was a very indefinite period—he might never return. At all events he would not be back until the middle of next year, and the Deputy Surveyor General would discharge his duties until then upon half pay, as regards his salary from the Survey Department. He would therefore move, That the item "Deputy Surveyor General, £350," be reduced by £175.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said it was notorious that the Survey Department was a self-sacrificing department, always ready and willing to render assistance in every direction; and he presumed it was the knowledge of this fact which had induced Governor Ord to deprive the department of the services of the Deputy Surveyor General, and transfer that officer temporarily to the Convict Department, an Imperial branch of the Service. The Governor having so decided, it was not for the Surveyor General to argue the point with His Excellency; consequently that good-natured and long-suffering official gracefully accepted the inevitable. Then came the question—On what terms or conditions should the services of the Colonial Officer thus selected to perform the duties of an Imperial Officer be engaged. It was felt by the Local Government that it would be impolitic to treat the Imperial authorities other than generously just then,—especially in con-

nection with the Convict Department. He thought it would have come with very bad grace on their part, when the much greater question of the transfer of that department to the Colonial Government was under consideration, to have insisted that the services of no local officer should be granted to supply Mr. Stone's place unless the Imperial Government paid his full salary. It was true that Mr. Forrest was then absent from his own office, but arrangements had been made for his acting as his (the Commissioner of Crown Lands') *locum tenens* during his absence from the Colony at the Melbourne Exhibition, on duties connected with the Public Service. According to present arrangements, Mr. Forrest would revert to his proper position, in every way, as Deputy Surveyor General, not much later than the beginning of next year (1881); consequently he thought it would be absurd to strike out one-half of his salary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the Imperial Government had always shown its readiness to render every assistance to the Colonial Government, when any occasion arose for a good turn to be rendered; and he thought few hon. members would venture to deny the truth of the old saying, that one good turn deserved another.

MR. SHENTON said there was no objection whatever on the part of any hon. member to reciprocate the kindly sentiments of the Imperial Government, and to do it a good turn when the opportunity offered. At the same time, he failed to see why, if the Deputy Surveyor General's services were granted to the Imperial Government as Superintendent of the Convict Department, at half salary, the Colony should also be called to provide his full salary as Deputy Surveyor General as well, in addition to his full allowance of £150 from colonial funds.

SIR L. S. LEAKE said he was astonished at the half-hearted proceedings of the hon. member for the Swan on this occasion, and the support which his motion had received from the hon. member for Toodyay. He hoped to be able to induce them to withdraw the proposal to strike out one-half the vote, and to accept an amendment of his own—to

strike it out altogether, for this reason: he quite appreciated the kindness and the good-nature shown by the Surveyor General in allowing his Deputy's services to be transferred to the Imperial Government. He also knew that some of the members of that House were privately consulted by Governor Ord on the subject of the appointment of a substitute for Mr. Stone, but no one could offer any suggestion on the point, and ultimately Mr. Forrest was selected for the post. He believed the transfer of that officer from his own department to Fremantle had been the source of much inconvenience to the department; but, as the Surveyor General had just said, there was every desire on the part of the Colonial authorities to render what assistance they could to the Imperial Government, even at considerable self-sacrifice. But he thought the Imperial Government ought to reciprocate this sentiment, and pay the salary of the officer whose services were placed at their disposal, without encroaching in any way upon Colonial funds for that purpose. The Imperial Government itself would think we were worse than a set of stupid, that we should grant them the services of a most valuable Colonial officer, to perform Imperial duties, on Colonial pay. It was not so very long ago when the Imperial Government, or at any rate the War Office, refused any longer to contribute the small pittance it had formerly allowed the Governor's Private Secretary and Aide-de-Camp (Lieut. Ord, R.A.), as half-pay, and called upon this Colony to pay the whole of that officer's salary. Why should this poor Colony be expected to behave more generously than the Imperial Government itself? If the Surveyor General was able to lend the services of his Deputy for an indefinite period of time—"until Mr. Stone's return"—he did think it was very outrageous that the Colony should be expected to pay his full salary and allowances during that time. The Imperial Government was far better able to pay him than we were; he would therefore move, as an amendment, that the item be struck out altogether.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said the arrangement made with Mr. Forrest was that he should draw his allowances in

full, and he hoped the Committee was not going to repudiate that arrangement, or to look upon this question, in its relation to the Imperial Government, as a mere question of £2 or £3 one way or the other, but regard it from a broader point of view.

MR. MARMION, though anxious by every possible means to reduce the public expenditure, expressed his intention of opposing the motion before the Committee, on the ground that he considered it would be doing an injustice to the officer concerned. If the motion was intended as a vote of censure upon the Government for placing the Deputy Surveyor General in his present position as Superintendent of Convicts, the proper course to adopt would be to make a substantive motion to that effect. Why should that House be asked to do a personal injury to that officer for no fault of his own? He (Mr. Marnion) said nothing about the wisdom of the appointment, but he did think it would be impolitic at the present juncture of affairs to fly in the face of the Imperial Government. The House was assured that Mr. Forrest would only receive one-half of his salary from colonial funds, pending the continuance of the present arrangements; and as the duration of those arrangements was uncertain, surely the House might provide for the payment of the Deputy Surveyor General's full salary when he became entitled to it.

MR. STONE said he could not conceive any act more likely to stultify the desire of he might say every member of the House,—namely, that the Government should, as far as possible, not go beyond the appropriations made by the Council, should not exceed the votes of the House,—than a motion of this sort. He had heard a great deal condemnatory of Excess Bills and over-expenditure in the course of the Session, and yet almost the very first proposal in Committee of Supply was to strike out a vote that, for all they knew at present, was likely to be wanted, if not on the 1st of January, soon afterwards. If the House agreed to the motion of the hon. member for Swan to strike out a moiety of the vote, or the still more drastic proposition of the hon. member for Perth (Sir Luke Leake) to strike it out altogether, the result would be, if Mr. Forrest should revert to his

position as Deputy Surveyor General early next year, that there would be nothing to pay him with, and the result must necessarily be another overdraft.

MR. BURT said no one blamed the Surveyor General for this appointment of Mr. Forrest as Superintendent of Convicts. Like a good and dutiful servant the Surveyor General simply did what the Governor told him to do. But what he (Mr. Burt) wanted to know was this—what did they want this money for when the man was not doing any work for the Colony. Surely Mr. Forrest was not doing the work of the Imperial Government without receiving any payment from that Government.

MR. BROWN thought it would have been well if more information had been afforded by the Governor on this point in His Excellency's Message. It must have been evident from the tenor of the question put by the hon. member for the Swan that this would have been desirable. For all the House knew, Mr. Stone might have gone away for good, or for a period of two or three years, and the services of the Deputy Surveyor General might be required by the Imperial authorities all that time. On the other hand, he might, for all they knew, return to his own department before the end of the year, in which case the whole of this vote would be required as usual.

MR. CAREY hoped hon. members would not think he was animated by any personal or "petty" feeling—which certainly was not the case—when he reminded the House that the Surveyor General himself had been the first to recommend that the office of Deputy Surveyor General should be abolished. But even allowing that such an officer was necessary, it could not be denied that Mr. Price was as competent to discharge the duties as anyone in the Colony. Mr. Forrest now received half-salary as Deputy Surveyor General (£175); half-salary as Superintendent of Convicts (£200 at least); his full allowances from Colonial funds (£150); in addition to which he had a house to live in, rent free—a privilege he was not entitled to as Deputy Surveyor General. He had also his horses kept by the Imperial Government, which was worth another £50 a year. So that, altogether, the emoluments of this officer at the present time

amounted to about £620 a year. He quite agreed with what had been said about the kindly feeling and goodness of heart of the Surveyor General in allowing one of his officers to be transferred to another department, but he thought Mr. Forrest had not made a bad bargain at all. He should have much pleasure, under the circumstances, in supporting the amendment of the hon. member, Sir Luke Leake.

No one seconding the amendment, the motion, That the item be reduced by £175 was put, and a division called for.

Question—That the figures proposed to be struck out stand part of the Estimates:

Ayes	11
Noes	9

Majority for	...	2
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AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. G. W. Leake	Mr. Burt
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Carey
Mr. Brown	Mr. Crowther
Mr. Burges	Mr. Grant
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Higham
Mr. Marmion	Sir L. S. Leake
Mr. S. S. Parker	Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. Randell	Mr. Shenton
Mr. Stone	Mr. Steere (Teller.)
Mr. Venn	
The Hon. R. T. Golds-	
worthy (Teller.)	

The amendment was therefore negatived.

MR. STEERE then moved, That Item "Forage and Travelling for Surveyor General, Deputy Surveyor General, and "two Surveyors, at £150 each, £600," be reduced by £150. Surely there could be no necessity to provide the Deputy Surveyor General with forage and travelling allowances while he was Acting Superintendent of Convicts.

MR. S. H. PARKER had great pleasure in supporting the motion. He failed to see upon what grounds any officer not actually requiring these allowances in the discharge of his official duties should have them granted to him. Governor Ord, it appeared, acting in his usual arbitrary manner, took upon himself to make this appointment upon such terms as he thought proper—just the sort of thing they would expect the late Governor to do; and he would say this of Governor Ord, if he had been here now, he would have carried every resolution brought before the House by his own personal influence. But he thought members now were in a more independent

position. At any rate, Governor Ord, or anyone else, had no right to pledge this Colony to give a public officer his forage and travelling allowances while that officer was performing Imperial duties. He should strongly support the motion to strike out the item, and leave Mr. Forrest to draw his forage from the Imperial Government,—especially as we had to give him a salary for doing nothing whatever for this Colony.

MR. SHENTON said these allowances were granted to surveyors in consideration of their doing field duty—they were not the same as a fixed salary; and he knew the Imperial Government was already allowing Mr. Forrest forage for a horse. Why, in the name of all that was fair, in the name of all that was honest, should the Colony be called upon to find forage allowance when such allowance could not possibly be required? He questioned whether the Auditor General could legally "pass" this item. The money, when voted, was voted for a specific purpose, and unless it was applied to that purpose, he failed to see how the Audit Office could let it pass.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said if hon. members would look at His Excellency's Message they would see the precise conditions upon which Mr. Forrest accepted the office of Acting Superintendent. It was not for him (the Commissioner) to pass judgment upon the arrangement made; and he thought it would be very impolitic, to say the least of it, for the House to put up its back against an arrangement that was entered into, he might say, in order, to a certain extent, to induce the Imperial Government, on the other hand, to deal with us in the same spirit of liberality. If this item were struck out, and Mr. Forrest returns to his own department, as he (the Commissioner) expected he would, early next year, the result would be he would have no forage or travelling allowances to enable him to discharge his official duties.

MR. SHENTON said that was very easily remedied. Under the head of "Miscellaneous," there was a sum of £700 set down for defraying the travelling expenses of officials, and Mr. Forrest's allowances—if he became entitled to any—might come out of that. He thought it was the greatest mistake the House ever

made to grant these fixed allowances for the officers of the Survey Department, which, he believed, involved a clear loss to the Colony of at least £250 a year. The Director of Public Works, when he first came here, had an allowance of £150, but since that was struck off, and the actual travelling expenses of that official paid, the cost to the country did not exceed about £40 a year. It was too late in the Session to do it, otherwise he should have gone in for striking out all these allowances, and pay the actual travelling expenses incurred by each official when travelling on duty. By so doing, he believed they would save fully one-half of the amounts placed on the Estimates under this head.

MR. BROWN thought we should treat the Imperial Government in the same spirit that we wish to see them treat us. That Government had spent millions in keeping this Colony together, and it would seem strange to see us, on the occasion of the first opportunity of returning the compliment, on a small scale, cavilling about a few pounds for forage allowance. The Local Government, it appeared, were in a regular fix as to whom to appoint as Mr. Stone's *locum tenens*, and it was as a last resort that they applied to Mr. Forrest, who, being human, but no fool, made, he (Mr. Brown) supposed, the best terms he could. No doubt, Governor Ord—notwithstanding all the severe things that had been said about him in connection with this appointment—had acted as he conceived was most advantageous for the interests of the Colony, and he believed His Excellency made the best arrangements he could, under the circumstances.

MR. MARMION said that for the reasons he had already given when opposing the motion to reduce the vote for Mr. Forrest's salary—namely, that Mr. Forrest himself was not to blame in the matter—he would also oppose the striking out of the present item. It was quite on the cards that a mistake had been made as regards the appointment; at the same time he thought the House would act wisely in looking a little below the surface, as, no doubt, Governor Ord did, and that, too, in the best interests of the Colony. This was not the proper time to discuss the principle of granting allowances to public officers; that was a

subject that ought to be discussed on its merits, and not as it affected one particular officer.

MR. SHENTON said, unfortunately they had no *Hansard* in 1875 to refer back to, but he recollected distinctly the Commissioner of Crown Lands during that year's Session stating in his place in the House that these allowances for the Deputy Surveyor General were intended to enable him to go about the country to look after the contract surveyors engaged upon field work. Surely, it was not pretended that while Acting Superintendent of Convicts Mr. Forrest would be called upon to perform that duty.

MR. S. H. PARKER said that if Mr. Forrest was engaged in the discharge of his proper duties, in his own department, forage and travelling allowances would be as necessary to enable him to perform his duties as were pens and paper for him (Mr. Parker) to discharge his duties towards his clients. But, in the position which that officer now held, there was no necessity whatever for these allowances, and consequently he failed to see upon what grounds the House could be fairly asked to vote them.

MR. STEERE asked the members of the Government if they could answer him this question: Supposing Governor Ord had been able to select somebody else to act as Mr. Stone's *locum tenens*—someone not connected with the Public Service of this Colony—how would the Acting Superintendent of Convicts have been paid then? Would they have come to that House for a vote to enable them to pay his salary, or would he have been paid out of Imperial funds? He need hardly say, they never would have dreamt of applying to the Council for funds to provide the salary. Why, then, should the Colony be saddled with this unnecessary expense, simply because an officer in the Colonial Service had been appointed Acting Superintendent. A great deal had been said about the liberal and generous manner in which the Imperial Government had treated this Colony. For his own part, he thought their treatment to us had been quite the reverse of liberal. There was the case of the Governor's aide-de-camp (referred to by the hon. member for Perth, Sir Luke Leake)—an analogous case to the one now under discussion. Did they act with

any liberality in that instance, when they called upon this Colony to pay the whole of his salary, although he retained his rank as an officer of the British Army? How did they act towards us with regard to the free immigrants promised as a counterpoise to the convict element introduced? He thought they acted most illiberally, and kept very bad faith with us as regards that agreement. In several other cases, also, the Imperial Government had treated the Colony in anything but a generous spirit. He thought it was an injustice to the taxpayers of the Colony to call upon them to provide travelling and forage allowances for an officer who was doing work for the Imperial Government only.

Mr. BROWN said if this proposition to strike out the item of forage and travelling allowances was in pursuance of some general principle, to be acted upon in all cases throughout the service, it would be quite a different matter; but affecting as it did one officer only, and that too after a distinct promise that he should continue to receive these allowances, he certainly would not support the motion to strike out the item.

Mr. VENN said that, as a country member, he should like to see a little more business done, and less talk. For the last hour or two the Committee had been discussing this question of forage allowance for the Deputy Surveyor General, who, for all they knew, might be back in his own office before the vote now asked for became available. He thought the sooner they got to business the better.

Question—That the figures proposed to be struck out stand part of the Estimates—put.

Committee divided, with the following result,

Ayes	12
Noes	8
Majority for	4

AYES.

The Hon. G. W. Leake
The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Brown
Mr. Burgess
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Marmion
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Randell
Mr. Stone
Mr. Venn
The Hon. B. T. Golds-
worthy (Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Burt
Mr. Carey
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Sir L. S. Leake
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Steere (Teller.)

The amendment was therefore negatived.

Mr. SHENTON pointed out that the vote for this Department (Survey) was becoming a very serious charge on the revenue. A sum of £4,500 was set down for "Contingencies," out of which vote he noticed, from a footnote, that a sum of £1,326 11s. 6d. was for the salaries of draftsmen and clerks not on the permanent staff. The salaries of the officers on the fixed staff amounted to another £2,820, and a sum of £600 was put down for forage and travelling allowances, giving a total expenditure—dependent of the amounts earned by the contract surveyors—of £4,746 11s. 6d. Five years ago, the whole vote for the department was only about £5,000, but this year the salaries alone almost amounted to that sum. Last year but one, in justification of the large expenditure contemplated, the House was informed that it was proposed to carry out a very necessary and important work—the triangulation of the Murchison district; and last year a special plea was made on account of the North-West Survey. Both of these undertakings had now been carried out, and he thought they might reasonably propose that the vote for this department might now be cut down. Hon. members would remember how the Police vote was cut down, and what dire consequences the country was threatened with as the result of the reduction. But in reality no evil result or inconvenience had followed in any way, and the expenditure of the department was kept within the amount of the reduced vote, thus saving the country a considerable sum of money annually. He thought the time had come when the same policy should be adopted with respect to the department now under consideration, and leave it to the head of the department to work out the problem of making both ends meet, as had been done in the case of the Superintendent of Police. In pursuance of that policy, he would move, "That the item £7,420 (the total vote for the "Survey Department) be reduced to "£7,000."

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said that personally he did not care whether the House voted a shilling for the depart-

ment; if the money was not voted, the work could not be done—that was all. Hon. members seemed to forget the amount of additional work which devolved upon the department in consequence of the continual changes in the Land Regulations, and from other causes over which the department had no control. The alterations made in the Land Regulations in 1878 necessitated the preparation of several thousands of documents dealing with the amended regulations; and he found that during this year and a great portion of the next they had a very large amount of work before them in the photolithographic department alone. There was also the compilation of a map of the Colony, on the scale of ten miles to an inch, showing the results of all the surveys made since the Colony was established, and which would be placed in the hands of the public at a very reasonable rate. But if the Committee were going to cripple the department as regards the necessary funds to carry out these works, how were they to be done? If hon. members chose to cripple the resources of the office, that was their own “look out”; he didn’t care—only let them not blame him in the matter. With regard to the number of officers employed on the temporary staff he hoped, unless the revenue improved and the work of the department increased, to be able to make a reduction. As hon. members were aware, there were only eight officers on the permanent staff; the others were provisionally employed, and their services might be dispensed with at the end of any month. No doubt the staff of the department had increased of late years, but so also had the revenue, and the work necessitated by the extension of settlement. They had a country as large as Russia to deal with. He assured the Committee they were working as systematically and economically as they possibly could, and it was for hon. members to say whether, under these circumstances, they voted £7,000 or seven thousand farthings—only, as he had already said, let them not blame him for any deficiency or inefficiency in the work of the department.

MR. STEERE said it was clear from what had just fallen from the hon. gentleman that his own salary did not form part of these Estimates, otherwise

he would not have said he didn’t care whether the House voted so many pounds or so many farthings. He was prepared to give the hon. gentleman credit, that when he got a vote for his department he tried his utmost to keep within the amount—which was more than could be said for other departments; and he was sure, if the Council only voted a certain sum for the annual expenditure connected with the department, the hon. gentleman would manage to get the work done within the amount voted. But the hon. gentleman always had some reason to urge why the vote should not be reduced. He was fertile in excuses on that subject. He had always some new scheme on the board. But he (Mr. Steere) had no doubt that if they struck this £420 off the departmental vote, the hon. gentleman would manage to get the work done just as well as if it were not struck off.

MR. RANDELL thought the Survey Department was one of those branches of the Public Service which they ought to endeavour to maintain in the highest state of efficiency compatible with our means. He thought that when the responsible head of a public department came forward and told them that this or that sum was absolutely necessary to carry out the work of the department, the House ought to place some confidence in such a statement, and a grave responsibility rested upon the House if, in the face of a deliberate announcement to that effect, they reduced the departmental vote. He thought the proposal to reduce this item was one that required the gravest consideration on the part of the Committee before consenting to it. Apart from the departmental work referred to by the Commissioner of Crown Lands he believed there were considerable arrears of work to be overtaken in connection with the Land Titles Office.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said the work alluded to by the hon. member Mr. Randell, was another proof of the increasing demands made upon the department. Formerly this work did not devolve upon it at all, and the same might be said with regard to other matters. Long before next year, however, he hoped all the arrears connected with the Land Titles Office would be swept away. Compar-

tively speaking, he had no hesitation in saying that they did more work here for the money than was done in any Land Office in Australia. They derived but a very small revenue from the land as yet, but there was an immense amount of work to do.

MR. BURT thought this was the wrong department altogether to begin cheese-paring with. He considered that the head of the department did his level best to have the work done efficiently and economically, and he thought it would simply be suicidal to cripple a department like this, in view of the probability of the extension of settlement. He should be only too happy to see the vote doubled if they had the money to afford it.

MR. CAREY thought it would be more satisfactory if, in the Estimates, hereafter the several heads of expenditure—"contract surveying," "labor," and "incidental expenses," were shown separately, and not as at present in one lump sum.

MR. MARMION asked if it was intended to spend any portion of the vote in continuing the triangulation of the Murchison district?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): Why don't hon. members read my official report presented to the House at the beginning of the Session? Why don't they give five minutes to the perusal of that interesting document? If they did so, there would be no necessity for propounding such a question as that.

MR. MARMION said he himself had read the Report, and he had put the question simply for the information of hon. members who possibly had not done so.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Beagle Bay, Item £500:

MR. STEERE asked for some information relative to this item. When the Colonial Secretary made his financial statement, he said this amount would be required to carry out land surveys in the vicinity of Beagle Bay, in conjunction with Admiralty surveys conducted by Capt. Archdeacon; but, when the hon. gentleman was pressed for further information on the subject, he said the money was intended for the purpose of forming the nucleus of a Government establishment in the neighborhood, and

to provide for the salary of some gentleman who would discharge the duties of a resident magistrate and also a surveyor. He should like to know what was the real intention of the Government in this matter?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said that Capt. Archdeacon and Lieut. Tooker, the Admiralty staff surveyors, had, he understood, also kindly undertaken the land surveys in this locality, and this sum, as he stated the other day in explanation to the question of the hon. member for Geraldton, was intended—in the event of the Admiralty surveyors reporting favorably of Beagle Bay as a suitable port, and in view of the establishment of a Government station in that district—to provide for the services of a surveyor, who would also discharge the duties of a magistrate, and perform such other services as might be required of him.

MR. BROWN thought it would be well to have some additional surveys carried out in this vicinity, and he should certainly support this vote, if it was intended for that purpose solely; but if it was proposed to pay for an officer who was to discharge magisterial duties and perform any other services, independent of surveys, he should be disposed to vote against it. If the idea was to form a Government establishment, they would want a vote of something like £2,000 or £2,500; but he could not think it was in contemplation by the Government to do anything of the kind, with a small sum like this, and he would be exceedingly surprised if any amount was voted by the representative members for any purpose, in this connection, other than for survey purposes in the Kimberley district. He believed the elected members had fully arrived at that determination, and he was much mistaken if the Government would not have to show a much better case than they had yet done, to induce hon. members to alter their determination.

MR. CAREY thought so, too. The Government would do well to bear in mind the result of the attempt to form a settlement at Camden Harbor, before making any further experiments in that direction. If this amount was intended to be devoted exclusively to surveys in the neighborhood of Beagle Bay, he

would be prepared to vote for it; but not otherwise.

MR. BURT would oppose the vote. What was the good of £500 to send up a survey party to the Beagle Bay district? His advice to hon. members was not to play with this vote; if they passed it this year, under the simple head of "Beagle Bay, £500," they would find that by next Session the item will have developed into a new department altogether. Why should they go to Beagle Bay to spend the public money in surveys, when there was plenty remaining to be done in that line in the settled districts of the Colony? There was no necessity to survey the country before there was a blessed soul there to settle upon it. There was any amount of work in the Survey Office of more pressing necessity than this; and, as had been pointed out by the hon. member for Geraldton, £500 would be no good towards forming a Government establishment in this locality. As to appointing a magistrate, what on earth was he to do when he got there? Whom was he to administer justice to? The blackfellows? When it was found that the district was likely to become settled, and a good port discovered by the Admiralty staff in the neighborhood, it would be time enough to talk about sending a survey party up there. He looked upon this vote as nothing more or less than the insertion of the thin end of the wedge for the establishment of another Government Department, and it certainly would not have his support.

MR. BROWN was surprised to hear the hon. member say that. It was no secret that the elected members had decided not so very long ago that they would endeavor to make up their minds upon the course which they were going to take upon all important measures before they came to the House, and the hon. member for the Murray was one of the most prominent persons in endeavoring to induce members to adopt what he (Mr. Brown) conceived a very wise step. It was true there was no combination among members, pledging the minority to support the majority, or any such tactics as would be legitimate under Party Government, but which would be out of place under our present Constitution. But simply that, by conferring

together and exchanging ideas, they might decide what would be the course best to adopt in the interests of the public with reference to this or that measure that was going to be brought before the House. In pursuance of that arrangement, the Estimates had been carefully considered, and the course which it was proposed to follow with reference to almost every vote was, after due consideration, resolved upon. Among the votes discussed, and thoroughly discussed, was the Survey Department, which had now been under discussion for several hours, though nothing new whatever had been brought to light in connection with the department. He thought they had all agreed as to this particular item—Beagle Bay. It was well understood that the amount placed on the Estimates under that head (£500) was meant to supplement the proposed amount to be spent out of the vote for contract surveys, in carrying out certain reconnaissance surveys in the Kimberley district (the new name given to the country recently explored by Mr. Alexander Forrest.) That being the case, he was surprised to hear from the hon. member for Murray that he intended to oppose the vote.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said the vote had been placed on the Estimates in order to enable his department to send up a surveyor with a party,—when they received the report of the Admiralty surveyors upon the locality. If that report was favorable, the intention of the Government was to send up a survey party (as he had already said), who would remain in the district during the winter months, surveying; and the leader of the party, it was thought, might advantageously be invested with magisterial powers, while at the same time he and his party would be employed in conducting surveys in the district, as well as discharging such other functions as might be considered desirable to delegate to him, in the interests of the Colony. The simple words "Beagle Bay" did not convey the precise meaning of the vote, but the designation had been borrowed from the resolution passed by the House last Session affirming the desirability of establishing a Government station in that locality, or elsewhere

on the North-West Coast. He was well aware that the vote now on the Estimates would not suffice to carry out that project, but care would be taken to make the money go as far as it would in that direction, and it would be rendered obligatory upon whoever went up with the party not to exceed the vote. Possibly it might be necessary to supplement the amount by appropriating a sum out of the vote for contract surveying.

MR. GRANT said that at Beagle Bay itself—so far as was known of it—there was very little good country, and why that locality should have been selected for the proposed surveys, instead of the Fitzroy, he did not know. It was ridiculous to think that the sum of £500 would be of any use to survey a country like that, and he saw no necessity for it. They had settled their North country without the aid of surveyors, without a magistrate, and even without the inevitable policeman. And had it not been for the breaking up and abandonment of Camden Harbor settlement, they would, in all probability, not have had a Government Resident for years. Possibly, they might have got on very well without one. At any rate there were other objects far more desirable than this, upon which this money might be expended, in the North-West district—his jetty for instance. To send up a survey party there would cost at least £1,000—judging by past experience in the same direction; for, to start with, it would be necessary to charter a vessel to take up the party, and that alone would pretty well swallow up the amount of this vote. After all, whatever was done, he did not anticipate there would be any great extent of settlement at Beagle Bay for some years to come.

MR. SHENTON said—seeing that the Nickol Bay survey cost about £3,500, it appeared to him that the amount here proposed to be expended might as well be thrown into the sea. He thought it would be far better to wait until they knew whether there was really any likelihood of a settlement being founded there. It was no use in frittering away money to no purpose whatever. The probability was—if this vote were passed in connection with the Survey Department it would be absorbed into the other

votes connected with the ordinary expenditure of that office.

MR. BROWN said survey after settlement was no doubt very desirable, but it was also necessary to have some rough surveys before settlement, in order to obviate disputes. He believed he would be carrying out the intention of the majority of the elected members, if he moved, as he now did, "That the words 'Beagle Bay' be struck out, and the words 'Survey, Kimberley District,—to supplement cost of "£500," be inserted in lieu thereof.

MR. MARMION referred to last Session's *Hansard* and the debate that took place on the subject of forming a Government Station at Beagle Bay or elsewhere on that coast, when the House adopted a resolution affirming the desirability of taking steps to establish such a station. He considered that the Government had, to a certain extent, failed in their duty in this matter. He thought the House, this Session, ought to have been placed in possession of some definite scheme on the part of the Government for carrying out the expressed wish of the Legislature on the subject, in accordance with the resolution brought forward by the late member for the North, and unanimously adopted last Session. It was then understood that some £3,000 would be required for the object in view; and it was very clear that £500 would go no way towards the attainment of that object. Was it wise then to vote it at all when they knew it would not accomplish what they wanted? Would it not be better to postpone the matter until the Government were in a position to submit some more definite scheme than they appeared to be able to submit at present, with reference to the settlement of this district? It was true there had been a change in the Administration since last Session, but surely the resolutions of that House were as binding upon one Administration as another. At the same time, possibly this might be the excuse which the Government had for not being prepared with some well-defined scheme for carrying out the expressed wish of the House. He did not think it would be wise on the part of the House to vote this money until they had some further information with respect to the intention of the Government

in the matter. At present, it appeared to him, the House was quite in the dark on the subject.

MR. VENN conceived that the service to which it was now proposed to apply this vote was a very necessary work—if it was for survey purposes alone. Certainly not to provide a magistrate, or anything else of that sort.

MR. STEERE did not consider that the explanation given by the Government, as to how it was intended to spend the vote, was at all satisfactory, and he would therefore move that the vote be struck out altogether. His strong conviction was that this sum by itself would not do any good, unless it was supplemented in some way or other. He hoped the Commissioner of Crown Lands would afford the House some further information as to the intentions of the Government in the matter.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said the intention of the Government, so far as he was personally concerned, was, that an officer on the staff of the Survey Office should be prepared to proceed, at the proper time, to the district in question, if the Admiralty Survey party went up there again after making the preliminary surveys which they had recently proceeded to make. In addition to the surveyor from the Crown Lands Office, it would be necessary that a small party should accompany him, and the party of course would have to be supplied with provisions. The total expenditure in connection with that project was estimated at £500, which was the sum the Government had placed on the Estimates for that purpose. He saw no reason why that amount would not suffice to carry out what he had pointed out was the intention of the Government. The House might rest assured that if this vote were passed, the expenditure in connection with it would be limited to the amount voted.

MR. BROWN said that statement was not altogether in accordance with what the hon. gentleman had stated at an earlier stage in the discussion. He then said that the vote would possibly have to be supplemented out of the vote for contingencies, under the head of "Contract surveying."

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): So it would

be supplemented, by the services of the Officer who would be sent up to undertake the surveys.

MR. BROWN said he had understood that this vote was merely intended to supplement the amount of the vote for contract surveys.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser): All I can say is, that the sum here asked for, for this specific purpose, will not be exceeded, if I am in office; but it must be regarded as supplementary to the vote for ordinary surveys so far as this—that an officer connected with the department will have to be sent up to do the work.

MR. STEERE said he was not yet altogether satisfied with the hon. gentleman's explanation. He was quite satisfied with the hon. gentleman's assurance as to what would be done if the matter were left to himself. But it appeared he was not in a position to say what steps the Government would pursue. The hon. gentleman said "if" the Admiralty vessel went up again,—the inference being that it was uncertain whether the proposed survey would be undertaken at all. Under these circumstances, he felt bound to move that the vote be struck out.

The House divided upon the proposition, which was negatived by a majority of two, the division list being as follows:

Ayes	...	9
Noes	...	11
Majority against		2

AYES.
Mr. Burt
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Mr. Marmion
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Steere (Teller.)

NOES.
The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy
The Hon. G. W. Leake
The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Bages
Mr. Carey
Mr. Hamersley
Sir L. S. Leake
Mr. Randall
Mr. Stone
Mr. Venn
Mr. Brown (Teller.)

The motion was therefore negatived.

MR. BROWN's amendment—that the words "Beagle Bay" be struck out, and "Survey, Kimberley District—to supplement cost of," be inserted in lieu thereof, was then put and carried.

The vote for the Survey Department was then passed.

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