

theless willing to accept," the amendment was put and negatived.

The resolution was then agreed to, as printed.

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

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 29th August, 1883.*

Remission of Royalty on Guano—Petition (No. 3): Railway between Bunbury and Jarrah Forests—Vote for Aboriginal Department: How expended—Message (No. 28): Statement of Proposed Expenditure on Works and Buildings—Message (No. 29): Appointment of Mr. Justice Stone as Delegate to Intercolonial Convention—Message (No. 30): Inland Mail Service, Curmarvon—Message (No. 31): Papers to Hydrophobia—Consideration of Loan Estimates, 1884—Fussie Judge's Salary Bill: first reading—Shipping and Pilotage Acts Amendment Bill: first reading—Capitation Allowances for Orphanages—Forest Reserve to Messrs. Smith & Co.—Northern District Survey: Return of Expenditure—Consideration of Message (No. 24): Telegraph Office Hours—Dog Bill: recommitted—Land Grant Railways Schemes: Adjourned debate—Rabbits Bill: second reading—Estimates: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### REMISSION OF ROYALTY ON GUANO.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): A few days ago the hon. member for Fremantle asked me when the Government intended to carry out the wishes of the Council as expressed in a certain resolution passed during the session of 1879, having reference to the remission of duty or royalty upon guano gathered upon the islands or coast of the colony, and sold for use in the colony. I informed the hon. member at the time that I was in communication with the Collector of Customs, with the view of

ascertaining the exact loss to the revenue which would be entailed by the proposed remission of duty on royalty, and that so soon as I obtained this information I would give a reply to the hon. member's question. I am now in possession of a return from the Collector of Customs, which shows that the receipts on this account for the last three years have averaged £92 15s. 4d. a year. This indicates that the matter is of small account, and that the charges cannot be regarded as heavy. There is really no reason why this royalty should be remitted, any more than rent charges received from the holders of occupied land of any class, and the proposal if carried into effect would be difficult to arrange satisfactorily.

### PETITION (No. 3): RAILWAY FROM BUNBURY TO JARRAH FORESTS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) laid on the table a petition from the inhabitants of Bunbury in favor of establishing railway communication between Bunbury and the Jarrah Forests.

### VOTE FOR ABORIGINAL DEPARTMENT: HOW EXPENDED.

MR. MARMION, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table—

"1st. Particulars as to how the sum of £550 placed upon the Estimates for 1884, under the heading of 'Aboriginal Department,' and described as 'Board and Clothing of Children at Perth and Busselton,' is proposed to be expended.

"2nd. Particulars as above with reference to the item of £700 under same heading, and described as 'Clothing and Blankets.'

"3rd. Particulars as to how the items above mentioned voted for the year 1882 were expended in that year, what persons were the recipients, and, in the case of the second item, in what districts the 'Clothing and Blankets' were distributed, and by whom?"

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the returns asked for would be furnished at an early date.

MESSAGE (No. 28): STATEMENT OF PROPOSED EXPENDITURE ON WORKS AND BUILDINGS.

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Governor:

"In reply to the Address\* of the Honorable the Legislative Council No. 34, dated the 22nd inst., the Governor transmits, herewith, a statement respecting the proposed expenditure on certain works and buildings during 1884, prepared by the Honorable the Director of Public Works in accordance with the wish of the Council.  
"Government House, Perth, 29th August, 1883."

[\* "That there be laid on the table of the House a detailed statement of the following expenditure under the head of Works and Buildings in the Estimate for 1884: Improvement Port Cossack, £700; Northampton Police Station, £1500; Repairs public buildings—Albany, £1000; Bunbury, £650; Fremantle, £500; Geraldton, £200; Newcastle, £280; Vasse £150; York, £350; Busselton jetty, £1000; Conversion of Pensioners Barracks, £450."]

MESSAGE (No. 29): APPOINTMENT DELEGATE INTERCOLONIAL CONVENTION.

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

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that, having received an invitation to that effect from the Government of Victoria, he has arranged to send a delegate on the part of Western Australia to an Intercolonial Convention appointed, on the initiation of the Colony of Queensland, to assemble at Melbourne on the 25th of September proximo.

"The questions to be considered by the Convention will be those connected with the proposed annexation of certain Islands of the Pacific, and constitution of Federal Government.

"The delegate of this Government will be Mr. E. A. Stone, Acting Judge of the Supreme Court, now in Melbourne.

"The telegram on the subject which has been received from the Premier of Victoria, together with the reply thereto, are annexed for the information of the Council.

"Government House, Perth, 29th August, 1883.

"From Premier, Victoria, to Colonial Secretary, Perth.

"Melbourne, 24th August.

"Convention of delegates proposed on the initiation of Queensland respecting annexation of Islands and constitution of Federal Government. I have been requested to act as Con- vener; am writing you fully by first mail; meantime telegraph to say will be much pleased to see Western Australia represented; propose meet Melbourne, 25th September; four delegates from each Colony suggested, but this optional; please wire reply to this telegram.

"(Sd.) JAS. SERVICE, Premier."

"Colonial Secretary to Premier.

"Perth, 27th August.

"The Government of Western Australia readily accept your invitation to take part in the proposed Convention.

"(Sd.) Colonial Secretary."

MESSAGE (No. 30): INLAND MAIL SERVICE, CARNARVON DISTRICT.

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

"The Governor, in reply to the Address\* of the Honorable the Legislative Council No. 42, of the 28th instant, has the honor to state that he will cause increased provision to be made, as requested, for the Carnarvon Inland Mail Service during 1884.

"Government House, Perth, 29th August, 1883."

[\* "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that he will be pleased to increase to £300 the amount of £150 placed upon the Estimates for inland mail services from Carnarvon, in the Gascoyne District."]

MESSAGE (No. 31): HYDROPHOBIA.

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

"The Governor has the honor to lay before the Honorable the Legislative Council, for their consideration and advice, the annexed papers respecting measures proposed to be taken by the Government of other Colonies to prevent the introduction into Australia of the disease of Hydrophobia among dogs.

"The only step likely to be effectual in this matter appears to be the absolute prohibition of the importation of all dogs whatsoever, except from unin-

"fected countries protected by a like regulation.

"Government House, Perth, 29th August, 1883."

The consideration of this Message was made an order of the day for Thursday, August 30th.

#### LOAN ESTIMATES, 1884.

On the order of the day for the consideration of the Loan Estimates, 1884, being read,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the House into committee.

Motion agreed to.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

*Eastern Railway, 3rd Section, Item £128,400:*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that this item stand part of the Estimates.

MR. STEERE said these Estimates, in the form in which they were now presented, were not at all in accordance with the provisions of the Loan Monies Control Act, which provided that "so much of the moneys raised under any Loan Act now or hereafter to be in force in this colony, as may be required for the salaries and allowances of officers, or the wages of workmen, for the purpose of the said Acts, and also for the construction of the several buildings, and purchase of rolling stock which may be required for the purpose aforesaid, shall be annually submitted to the Legislative Council." These Estimates did not furnish the House with all this information, and therefore would have to be submitted in a different form, as prescribed by the Act.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. H. Thomas): It would be impossible to do that; we could not possibly specify every expenditure that may be required. The hon. member is asking for an impossibility.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that progress be reported and leave given to sit again next day.

This was agreed to.  
Progress reported.

#### PUISNE JUDGE'S SALARY BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved the first reading of a Bill to provide for the payment of the salary of the Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### SHIPPING AND PILOTAGE ACT'S AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved the first reading of a Bill to extend the provisions of the Shipping and Pilotage Acts, 1855 and 1873.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### CAPITATION ALLOWANCE FOR ORPHANAGES.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, moved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that he will be pleased to increase the grant to the two Orphanages (Protestant and Roman Catholic), from 8d. to 10d. per diem for each child. The hon. member said it was only a few days since, that he was informed that the allowance made by the Government to these deserving institutions was only 8d. a day, which he thought hon. members would agree with him was a very small allowance indeed, seeing that the relief granted by the Government to outdoor paupers was 1s. a day. The inmates of these institutions were clothed, fed, and educated, and the managers had to incur the expense of supervision, besides providing the necessary accommodation, bedding, furniture, etc., necessary for the upkeep of such establishments, while all would agree with him that the philanthropic object which these institutions had in view was deserving of every support.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had no intention whatever to oppose the motion, but in order that the House might be in a position to deal with the subject with a full knowledge of the increased expenditure which it would entail out of public funds, he had referred the matter to the Superintendent of Charitable Institutions (Mr. Dale), who had furnished him with

the following information. The number of children at present maintained in these Orphanages is 169, which at 8d. per diem for each child (the Government allowance) amounted to £2,056 3s. 4d. a year; if the grant were increased to 10d. per diem, the allowance would amount to £2,570 4s. 2d., being an increase of £514 0s. 10d., for which provision would have to be made on the Estimates. This would increase the vote for charitable purposes from £5,500 to £6,000. He merely mentioned this, not with a view in any way of obstructing the motion, but in order that the House may be informed as to the extra expenditure which the address, if carried, would entail upon the revenue.

MR. GRANT said it gave him much pleasure to support the motion, and he was very glad the hon. member had brought it forward, for he thought these institutions were deserving of more support than they at present received from the State. He visited the Protestant Boys' Orphanage on the Swan the other day, and a great deal he saw there was not at all satisfactory to his mind. He noticed that the children were very dirty, and in want of clothes, and that there appeared to be a great want of more supervision. He thought at the time that the grant for these institutions ought to be increased, so as to enable the managers to exercise more supervision, and to have a better supply of clothing for the inmates. Where the fault lay he did not know, but there certainly was a great want of cleanliness and order amongst the children, which was to him most distressing, and he hoped the vote would be increased.

MR. CAREY was sorry to hear from the hon. member for the North, that at the Orphanage he had visited, the same good management did not prevail as in the kindred institution belonging to another denomination, but it seemed to him that this was only an additional argument in favor of providing the managers with additional funds, which he hoped would be granted to them ungrudgingly.

MR. MARMION had much pleasure in supporting the motion. He could not speak for the Orphanages generally, he could only say that at those which he had personally visited he had noticed

the greatest attention paid to the wants and the interests of the poor waifs who were supported there; and if there existed any kindred institution in which there was any apparent want of attention it was possibly due to the very meagre allowance made by the Government to the managers. He thought if the Government granted them a little more assistance, there would probably be no cause for such complaints as the hon. member for the North had alluded to. He thought the hon. member for Tooday deserved the thanks of the House for reminding it of a public duty which it owed to these children.

MR. CROWTHER thought if there really existed any necessity for increasing State aid to these deserving institutions, it ought, and he had no doubt would be, readily granted; but, before doing so, he did think the House ought to be informed whether the managers of these Orphanages had put forward any application for additional assistance. These gentlemen must necessarily know more about the circumstances of the case than any hon. member of that House, and he was informed that no request whatever had been preferred by the Dean, who was the certified manager of the Protestant Girls' Orphanage, nor by the Archdeacon, who had charge of the Boys' Orphanage at the Swan, for any further allowance from the Government. He was not aware whether any application had been made by the managers of any of the other Orphanages; but, if not, he certainly thought the Legislature ought to wait until those more immediately concerned in the management of these institutions made any application for a larger allowance. He regretted to hear that, as regards the establishment visited by the hon. member for the North, the present allowance was not being so well expended as it ought to be. It might be prejudice on his part, or it might be owing to lack of information, but there was no gainsaying the fact that the sum now voted for the Protestant Orphanage was not applied as it ought to be, and he thought the House ought to have the evidence of the gentlemen entrusted with the control of these institutions as to whether the present grant was insufficient or not, before they were asked to increase the vote.

MR. GRANT: I say candidly, from what I saw myself, and from the appearance of the children at the Orphanage I visited on the Swan, that these children are, apparently—I say apparently—neglected, and I think this is due to the insufficient support which these Orphanages receive from the State, so that it would be well if this House were to increase the allowance.

SIR LUKE LEAKE said he was partly connected with the Protestant Orphanage, and he was quite sure he was right in saying that no additional vote had been asked for by the managers of that institution, which he was glad to say had been nobly supported by the public, apart from any State aid. He believed, so far as that Orphanage was concerned, they did not ask for any more, nor did they require any more. One hon. member had thrown a slur upon the management of the Swan institution. Things might not be so good with us (Protestants) as with the Roman Catholics. The Catholics had a great advantage over us: they had good ladies who devoted their lives to such work, but we had not, and we were dependent possibly upon one individual. It would be cowardly and unmanly on his part if he were to allow anything to be said against Archdeacon Brown, in his management of the Home at the Swan, when he considered what that institution owed to the Archdeacon, and what it would do without him. The Archdeacon gave up a good deal of his valuable time to this institution, but, he would say again, we had not the advantages of the Roman Catholics. As to the Protestant Orphanages, all he could say was, this increase was never asked for by them: it was neither sought for by the managers nor the governors, and, so far as he was concerned, he was quite prepared to vote against it.

MR. GRANT said the hon. member for Perth (Sir Luke Leake) had taken exception to what he had said. He had simply just stated what he had seen with his own eyes. He had seen these children on the Sabbath day, in a very miserable looking condition, poorly clad, unkempt, just like street children, and apparently without any care or supervision whatever being exercised over them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he might inform the House that the Inspector periodically visited all these charitable institutions, paying "surprise" visits to them, and his reports, which were published in the *Gazette*, were almost invariably favorable to the management. This session the report of the managers of these institutions had also been laid on the table, and this would always be done in future for the information of the House. He really thought himself—although it was idle to attempt to deny what the hon. member for the North stated as to what he had himself seen—but he was inclined to believe that this was a solitary instance of mismanagement: the hon. member must have seen the children under very unfavorable circumstances. He could say that, as a rule, the children at this institution were well fed and well cared for, and he thought we owed a great debt of gratitude to the Ven. Archdeacon Brown for the interest he manifested, and the time he devoted—he might say without fee or reward—in conducting the affairs of the institution referred to. He was quite sure if the Archdeacon were aware of the state of affairs described by the hon. member for the North, he would very soon take steps to remedy it. He had no doubt that this discussion would be productive of good results, and that such a thing was not likely to recur.

MR. GRANT: I can only say again that what I saw I saw on the Sabbath, when children generally are cleaned and dressed up for the occasion.

MR. CROWTHER: Divide.

The House then divided upon the motion, when there appeared—

Ayes	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	16
Majority against ...			9

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Carey	Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Glyde	Hon. A. P. Hensman
Mr. Grant	Hon. J. H. Thomas
Mr. Hamersley	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Bigham	Mr. Brown
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Burges
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)	Mr. Burt
	Mr. Crowther
	Sir L. S. Lenke
	Mr. McRae
	Mr. S. S. Parker
	Mr. S. H. Parker
	Mr. Randall
	Mr. Venn
	Mr. Wittenoom
	Mr. Steere (Teller.)

The motion was therefore negatived.

## PROPOSED GRANT OF A FOREST RESERVE TO MESSRS. SMITH &amp; Co.

MR. BURT, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to grant to Messrs. Smith & Co., of Perth, furniture makers and upholsterers, a reserve of 5000 acres of forest land to be selected by them on or in the vicinity of York Greenmount, with the right to cut and remove timber therefrom for a term of 14 years." The hon. member said he had already presented a petition to the House in support of this concession. That petition set forth that the firm in question were and had been engaged in industrial pursuits during the last five years, the development of which had given a large impetus to trade and commerce, and supplied a want that had long been felt in the colony. It pointed out in the next place that great benefit must accrue to the community by the constant employment of a large number of operatives, nearly 300 being at present engaged upon the company's works, 70 more being on their way from England under an engagement with the firm, while employment was also awaiting others who might arrive. It was also intended, by the introduction of further appliances, so to develop the operations of the company as to lead to the employment of additional skilled labor. The petition further pointed out that the inception of so important an undertaking involved a large outlay of capital, and demanded the exercise of more than ordinary responsibility. The prosecution of such an enterprise also entailed the risk of sustaining heavy loss, and the petitioners submitted that, in recognition of their efforts, they had a claim to some consideration at the hands of the Government, inasmuch as other companies who had undertaken to develop certain industries had obtained similar concessions. What the firm asked for was that they should be granted a reserve of forest land in the vicinity of York Greenmount, with the right to remove the timber for a certain term of years. At present the timber was cut under a 5s. license, under which a person was at liberty to fell as many trees as he thought fit. There were several parties

engaged at this work in the neighborhood in question, and, being desirous of making the most they could out of their licenses, cut down trees wholesale, and in a most reckless manner, with the result that thousands and thousands of trees were now lying on the ground which these people would never remove—having already obtained what timber they wanted out of what had been fallen—and the trees would be exposed to the ravages of the first bush fire that occurred in the vicinity. It was obvious that under this process of ruthless destruction a large quantity of timber was annually destroyed and lost to the country. If the prayer of this memorial were acceded to, a large quantity of this timber would be preserved. The company having the right to cut and remove for the next fourteen years would not be under the necessity of felling timber in this reckless fashion, and would merely cut what they required for their business, as they would be certain of a constant supply. He did not suppose that during this term of fourteen years they would destroy as much timber as was now destroyed within a few months. Hon. members had had an opportunity of inspecting the company's mills and factories, and must have been convinced that a vast amount of capital had been expended, and that a great stimulus had been given to an important local industry. All this had been done, up to the present time, at a very heavy loss indeed to the firm. They paid away £200 or £300 a week in wages, in ready money, and it must be obvious that the mere putting of this large amount of cash in circulation was a beneficial thing for the people of Perth. The firm in the past had expended about £50,000 in the prosecution of this industry, which he thought entitled them to some recognition at the hands of the Legislature. They had also imported a very large number of immigrants, who were employed on their works, at good wages and likely to remain there. For years past the Government had been importing immigrants at public expense, who, no sooner did they arrive and could scrape sufficient money to take them away, than they left our shores for the other colonies; but this firm's immigrants—and they had had over 100 already—remained with them, and not one of them

had left the colony, having continued in the company's employment, with one or two solitary exceptions. The firm also trained a large number of youthful artisans of the very class which the colony had felt the want of for many years past. If the firm ceased business to-morrow, a large number of boys who were now being taught to become useful and industrious citizens would be thrown out of employment, with the result that in all probability many of them would grow up in idleness, and some of them in vicious and criminal habits. And what was it the company asked for, after all? They asked for very little indeed,—the right to cut timber for a certain number of years over a certain area of land, instead of letting the timber go to waste, as at present. What was the value of this land to the State? That was the way to look at it. A short time ago the Government made certain reserves of land in this vicinity to a gentleman from Adelaide, who took up one or two sections, but did not work the land, and it reverted to the Crown. It was subsequently offered up at public auction, and he believed the Government could not even get a bid for it, though it was put up more than once. This showed what little value the land was to the Government, and the concession asked for by this company was a very small one indeed. In fact, he looked upon it more in the light of an offer to preserve the timber than a concession. That was the main object of the company, rather than any direct pecuniary gain for themselves, and he commended their very modest request to the favorable consideration of the House.

MR. GRANT said that as a general rule he did not believe in concessions, but there were exceptions to all rules, and he thought that of all the exceptions this one stood out prominently amongst all others he had seen in the colony. This concession here asked for was to encourage an industry which was being prosecuted at great expense, and which in the extent of its operations already bore a favorable comparison with anything he had seen in the other colonies, so far as it went. The concession asked for was a very small one indeed—in fact, he was surprised at the modesty of the firm. Considering the many advantages which were derived by the public, he

might say directly and indirectly, from this industry, really he thought there could be no question as to the advisability of granting this concession. It was a mere nothing after all, and would never be felt.

MR. SHENTON would support the motion, for he thought the concession was one which ought to be granted, for the purpose of encouraging an industry which was acknowledged to be of importance to the colony at large. He thought also that as a matter of policy the concession ought to be granted. It would be very easy for this firm to employ any number of sawyers to cut this timber, and, having selected what they wanted for their immediate requirements, leave the remainder on the ground, to be burnt by bush fires, depriving the colony of any revenue from it and the railway from any profit in respect of the carriage of it.

MR. STEERE said he was not favorable to the proposal, although he must say he was rather startled at the novel light in which the hon. member for the Williams put forward the proposal. The hon. member had asked them to regard the matter in the light of a favor conferred upon the colony by this company rather than a favor conferred by the Crown upon their company. He failed to see how it could be said that the company were going to preserve the timber on this land, when they asked for the sole right to cut and remove it for the next fourteen years. As to the company having carried on their business at a loss up to the present time, he would not forget the fact that a short time ago the original firm's business passed into the hands of a very wealthy syndicate, and he certainly did not think the members of that syndicate were gentlemen who would have gone into this undertaking unless they were pretty sure of a fair return, and a certainty of receiving some profit out of the concern. He did not think they asked for a very great deal: he acknowledged that. He believed they would get the right they asked for, for about £100 a year, so that, looked at in this light, the concession was not a very great one. But he did not think it would be a wise policy to grant such a concession, so near to Perth, the principal centre of population, where the demand for timber was so great, and

must continue to increase. The hon. member for the Williams referred to the large number of immigrants imported by this firm, and one would be led to believe that they had expended large sums of money in introducing workmen into the colony; but he believed he was right in saying that it was the colony itself, and not Messrs. Smith & Co., that had paid for the importation of these immigrants. It was the principle of giving these concessions that he distrusted. There were other people who had started local industries who were quite as much entitled to receive concessions as this firm, and who gave employment to a large number of men. He might instance the carriage factory established by Mr. Summers, which in a colony like this was a very valuable local industry, and quite as deserving of encouragement as a furniture factory.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) was rather astonished that any hon. member should have brought forward so trifling a subject for discussion in that House as the subject of this address, for, after all, it simply amounted to this—the saving to the firm of a certain amount of rent, which was hardly a question worthy of the attention of the Legislature of the colony, or deserving of any time being wasted over it. With regard to the introduction of immigrants, it was well known that these immigrants were introduced into the colony at public expense; and although skilled artisans were a class which no doubt it was desirable should be introduced into the colony, he did not regard them as one tithe the value of labor introduced for agricultural purposes and for the purposes of settlement. The introduction of mechanics into our towns, at the public expense, was a costly policy, which for his own part he did not think the country should be called upon to bear. They knew that mechanics would go to any part of the world where they thought their labors could be profitably employed, and he thought this firm had met with the most generous treatment on the part of this colony, in the manner in which they had been assisted out of public funds in bringing out mechanics and laborers to be employed in their service. He thought this concession was a matter that should not

have been brought before that House at all, and he hoped the hon. member would not press it to a division; if he did, the hon. member would not find him with him.

MR. CROWTHER hoped the hon. member *would* push it to a division. The concession asked for was more imaginary than real, and he believed it would be to the advantage of the State if it were granted. The company could, if they wished, by the payment of 5s. a month, get all they asked for, but the loss to the State would be a great deal more than if they were to grant this concession. He was told on reliable authority that at the present moment this company was cutting some timber indiscriminately, good, bad, and indifferent, and when the opportunity offered they would take away that which suited their own purposes, leaving the rest to be wasted or destroyed, with other timber, by bush fires. All they asked was that a small area of ground should be reserved for their use for a few years, in return for which they in effect promised the Government this: they were now spending from £15,000 to £16,000 a year in wages, all in current coin of the realm, and this money revolved among all sections of the community; "Give us this concession," they said, "and we will employ three times as many men, and set loose £150,000 or £160,000 a year of current coin rolling about in 'your city.'" He ventured to say that if any company hailing "from the other side" had done one-tenth what this local company had done, and intended doing, they should have had this concession without demur. If people wanted to get anything from the Government of this colony, they must come here as strangers. The whole history of these concessions in the past went to show that. Local enterprise was nothing; the expenditure of local capital was nothing; no good could come out of Nazareth. But let some adventurous spirits find their way here from other countries, and a paternal Government took them by the hand at once, and behaved towards them in the most liberal and handsome manner, all at the expense of our own people. One of the strongest arguments in favor of the concession was supplied by the Colonial Secretary himself, who said it was such a small matter that it was



hardly worthy of a thought. If so, he hoped the Government would not think it worthy of opposition.

MR. BURGESS said he would support the motion, if for no other reason than the fact that the granting of the concession would have the effect of preserving our timber from reckless waste and destruction. The sooner some check is placed upon the present system the better would it be for the colony.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) explained to the committee the terms upon which the Government had dealt with the timber lands on these ranges. They were arranged in blocks containing a certain area, and the upset price when submitted to auction was £100 a year. The Government had not been very successful in disposing of the land, but there were some blocks leased, and the Government had refused to let any more, except by auction, at the upset price.

MR. BURT: Is it not a fact that one or more blocks have been put up at auction, and no bid received?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): The last time there was no bid.

MR. CAREY thought, considering what had been done in the past, and what had been given in the way of concessions to other companies, this concession was a very small one indeed, and no tangible reason had been put forward against it. It appeared to him the firm did not care so much for escaping from paying rent, as for preserving the timber from the wasteful destruction which was now going on, under the monthly license system, when, for every tree made use of ten were destroyed. If the present system were allowed to go on for a very short time longer, there would be no valuable timber at all left on these ranges, and that was what the firm wished to provide against. Looking at the fact that Mr. M. C. Davies was only paying £150 a year for 46,000 acres of most valuable timber land down south, the concession here asked for (5000 acres) would not in proportion be worth more than about £20 a-year. He thought a good case had been made out in favor of this memorial, and that it well deserved the support of the House.

MR. MARMION did not care to op-

pose a request of this kind, for he had always been in favor of giving a bonus of some kind to those who introduced new industries into the colony. At the same time he would wish it to be understood that in agreeing to this proposal the House would be affirming a principle which, to be consistent, it must be prepared to act upon, under similar circumstances, hereafter, in the event of similar concessions being asked for, and that the extent of those concessions should be based upon the amount of good which the requisitionists had done to the colony. He did not altogether appreciate the line of argument adopted by those hon. members who contended that in giving this concession to the firm in question we should be simply preserving our timber from wasteful destruction. If that was a valid argument it simply meant this—we had better hand over the whole of our timber lands to people who pay no rental for it, so as to preserve it from spoliation. The land regulations at present allowed any firm or company, for £20 a year, to take up a square mile of this timber land, and to keep others out of it. It did not follow that if the Government gave Messrs. Smith & Co. this 5,000 acres, these 5s. a month fellows would not go on destroying timber just the same as ever, outside this boundary. He supported the motion because it seemed to him they could not very well refuse the application, after the many concessions which had been made to industries of a somewhat similar kind in the past. For his own part, he wished it to be emphatically understood that he should be prepared, if a request of a similar nature were submitted on behalf of any other firm, showing an equal claim, to grant that request. He also thought if this concession is granted regard should be had to the position, locality, and shape of the block. The locality had a great deal to do with the value of a concession like this. A block of timber land situate alongside a railway, within easy distance of the metropolis and of the principal seaport of the colony, was a very different thing to a block of equal area situated some hundreds of miles away. He thought the House should indicate its desire to the Government that this land, if granted, should be in a certain locality and that it should take a

particular shape,—that its length should be proportionate with its depth.

MR. WITTENOOM hardly liked to oppose the motion, nor was he much in favor of it. It appeared to him it was a very large area to give away within so short a distance from Perth, and within easy reach of a railway. There ought to be some stipulation certainly as to where the land was to be taken up: the firm should not be allowed to pick and choose the best portion of the ranges. The quantity of land proposed to give them also appeared to him excessive.

MR. RANDELL said he also had had some difficulty in making up his mind which way he should vote on this question. He certainly felt that the arguments adduced in favor of the concession were exceedingly weak, and would apply with equal force to many other industries. He thought a great deal too much had been made of the alleged practice of the 5s. license men; he could scarcely understand a man wasting his money and his strength in cutting down trees that he was not likely to utilise, and which he must remove. The inference to be drawn from such a practice, if it existed, was that it was done for the purpose of injuring others rather than benefiting themselves. He did not think this was a concession that could be defended on any sound principle of political economy,—on anything like statesmanship at any rate, and his feelings, he must confess, were very much in favor of the views expressed by the hon. member for the Swan. He thought the hon. member for Fremantle, too, had very clearly pointed out the future consequences involved in granting this concession; he could scarcely conceive how the Council could refuse any other application put forward upon grounds—he would not say exactly similar to this, but upon grounds approaching those upon which the present application was made. At the same time, he did really conceive that a very great deal of indurfatigable industry and perseverance, and of very spirited enterprise, had been manifested by this firm, and that to a large extent they were supplying a want long felt in the city, and that to that extent they deserved consideration at the hands of the Council. He thought, however, the House should go a little further than

the resolution now before it, and, in order that the interests of other people in the same vicinity—of people he might almost say who had vested interests in this locality, having already erected saw-mills there, and started the industry of timber-cutting and preparing it for the market: in order that the interests of these people should be protected, he begged to move, as an amendment, that the following words be added to the resolution:—"This Council would, however, express their opinion that should His Excellency the Governor see fit to grant a favorable reply to this Address, the interests of other persons now engaged in cutting timber, and who have erected mills in the locality, shall be fully considered and protected."

The amendment, upon being put, was negatived, on the voices, and upon the question being put—"That the address be presented," the Council divided, with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	11
Noes	...	...	10

Majority for ... 1

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Burges	The Hon. A. P. Hensman
Mr. Carey	Hon. J. H. Thomas
Mr. Crowther	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Grant	Mr. Brown
Mr. Higham	Mr. Glyde
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Hamersley
Mr. McRae	Mr. Randell
Mr. S. S. Parker	Mr. Steere
Mr. Shenton	Mr. Wittenoom
Mr. Venn	Hon. M. Fraser (Teller.)
Mr. Burt (Teller.)	

The address was therefore adopted.

#### NORTHERN DISTRICTS SURVEY: RETURN OF EXPENDITURE.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved for a return showing how the vote of £6,600 for surveys between the Ashburton and the Murchison Rivers, and in the Kimberley District, as shown on the Estimates for 1883, was being expended; such return to show salaries, allowances, cost of transport, &c. Also, a return showing how it is proposed to expend the sum of £5,700, as shown on the Estimate for 1884, for surveys on the Upper Murchison, Gascoyne, Robe, and DeGrey Rivers, and in the Kimberley District. His reason in asking for these returns was because he noticed that only £3,000 were put down for surveys in the whole of the settled districts of the

colony, during the next year. They all knew how desirable it was that these surveys in the more settled districts should be carried out as soon as possible, and it seemed to him a very large portion of the vote for surveys was being apportioned to the Kimberley and other northern districts.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) laid upon the table the returns asked for. (*Vide* Sessional Paper, A 28.)

#### CONSIDERATION OF MESSAGE (No. 24) RE TELEGRAPH OFFICE HOURS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) brought under the consideration of the House the message received from His Excellency the Governor relative to increasing the business hours of the telegraph service (*Vide* p. 330 *ante*). The matter was one which had formed the subject of discussion in the House for some years past, but no changes had yet taken place. He thought, however, that the alteration proposed by His Excellency—that there should be a continuous service of nine hours, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., instead of the broken periods at present observed—would be a public convenience, and would meet the wishes of the majority of business men. The proposed changes would involve no additional expense, and, without further preface, he would move, “That this Council, after due consideration, fully concurs with the proposals embodied in His Excellency’s Message (No. 24) with reference to the hours during which the Telegraph Offices of the Colony should be open to the public in future, without additional cost to the Revenue; and this Council hopes that the Governor will give effect to the proposed alterations in the hours.”

MR. CAREY said, as the mover of the address which had elicited this message from His Excellency the Governor, he might be allowed to state that, so far as the country districts were concerned, the hours proposed would, he believed, meet the requirements and convenience of the settlers, but he was unable to express any opinion as to whether they would suit Perth and Fremantle.

MR. MARMION said he had always taken some interest in this question for

years past, and had always believed that it would be advantageous if the hours of business in our telegraph offices were assimilated with those of the neighboring colonies, and more particularly South Australia and Victoria. His Excellency in his message said that the longer hours of the Victorian offices could not be adopted here without considerably increased cost, and the hours proposed for adoption were those of the Queensland telegraph offices. He did not know why the Government had considered it expedient to adopt the Queensland office hours,—a colony with which we had little or no connection, whereas there was a great deal of communication taking place between this colony and South Australia. He was a member of a Commission which sat in 1878, to inquire into the administration of certain departments of the public service, of which Commission the present Colonial Secretary was president; and, in dealing with the Telegraph Department, the Commission made the following recommendation: “The hours at present in which the offices throughout the colony are open for the dispatch of business might, we think, be assimilated to those in force in the other colonies, with advantage to the public convenience, and we recommend that the office hours in Perth, Fremantle, Geraldton, Albany, and Eucla should be from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. This alteration might entail a necessary addition to the staff at Fremantle, Geraldton, and Albany, the annual expense of which would be about £200. There appears to be no necessity to change the hours at any other stations than these mentioned.” Sir Harry Ord, who was then Governor, had made a minute to the following effect with reference to this recommendation: “I have been always of opinion that the hours during which telegraph stations are required to be kept open are unnecessarily limited, and I should be glad to see them assimilated to those in force in the other colonies; at the same time I do not see why we should pay £200 a year for this privilege, and I think that the public may be afforded more convenience in this respect than they now possess, without much if any additional expense.” That was Governor Ord’s opinion, and he was very much in accord with it. He thought

we might be afforded greater convenience without entailing much more expense than at present, or than was proposed to be expended during 1884. In Perth, he noticed they had a pretty large staff—a Superintendent, a Chief Operator and Instructor, and five other operators, besides messengers; and at Fremantle they had a Telegraph Master, a telegraphist, an assistant telegraphist, and a junior telegraphist. These were the two principal offices, and he thought he might say that the work in these offices was fully double what it was in any other office throughout the colony, and it appeared to him the present staff was sufficiently numerous to keep the office open continuously, without entailing any extra expense upon the colony. There were always certain hours, which had been ascertained by experience, when work was slack, and the necessary recreation which the officers required might be given to them during this slack period of the day. He believed it would be a great advantage to the commercial community and the general public if the telegraph offices were kept continuously open, and he was afraid the hours proposed in His Excellency's message would not satisfy the public want. He thought it would be better and more advantageous to the public at large if the offices opened earlier and closed later than proposed by His Excellency—say from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MR. STEERE presumed that the reason why His Excellency had suggested that the hours mentioned in his message (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) would be sufficiently long for this colony, was because they were found to be so in a very progressive colony like Queensland. If they were to do what the hon. member for Fremantle suggested, keep the offices open continuously night and day, it would necessitate a largely increased staff, especially in country places. It would at any rate require one extra operator in every country office. He thought the hours proposed in His Excellency's message were sufficiently long, and that they were well arranged, with a due regard to the convenience of all parties, and without any extra expense.

MR. SHENTON thought that a compromise might be effected. In country districts there might not be that neces-

sity for extending the office hours, which was felt to be the case in the principal towns. In most country places probably 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. would answer the purpose; and in the towns the hours might be from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in summer, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in winter.

MR. CROWTHER said that in country districts the telegraph operators as a rule were very obliging, and did not mind attending the office at any reasonable hour. What was wanted was to keep the head office at Perth open, day and night; if that was done, he did not think there would be any difficulty so far as regarded the country offices, in the event of an occasional message being required to be forwarded after the usual office hours.

MR. GLYDE thought the present hours were very good hours, but, if any alteration should be made, he should think that from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. would be the most convenient to the public at large. Nine o'clock in the morning was rather late to open; nearly half the day was gone by that time with business people. Unless the offices could be opened earlier than that, he thought the present hours would suit the public better.

MR. SHENTON: Divide.

The House then divided, with the following result:

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	11

Majority against ... 1

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. A. P. Hensman	Mr. Brown
Hon. J. H. Thomas	Mr. Burt
Hon. J. Forrest	Sir T. C. Campbell
Mr. Burgess	Mr. Carey
Mr. McKee	Mr. Crowther
Mr. S. S. Parker	Mr. Glyde
Mr. Steere	Mr. Grant
Mr. Venn	Mr. Higham
Mr. Wittenoom	Mr. Randell
Hon. M. Fraser (Teller.)	Mr. Shenton
	Mr. Marmion (Teller.)

The motion was therefore negatived.

#### DOG BILL.

On the order of the day for the third reading of this Bill being read,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the order be discharged and the Bill recommitted.

This was agreed to.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 3—Interpretation clause:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), in order to remove any doubt as to the meaning of the word "dog" in this Act, and to meet an objection which was referred to when the Bill was in committee before, moved that the following words be added to the introduction clause: "The word 'dog' in this Act shall mean any male or female dog of any age exceeding three months."

This was agreed to, and the clause as amended adopted.

Clause 4—Dogs to be registered within fifteen days after the 1st of January in each year:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said there seemed to be some doubt when this clause was under consideration the other day as to whether dogs could be registered at any period of the year after the 15th January, and as it was desirable there should be nothing dubious about the wording of the Act, he had to move that the following words be added to this clause: "Provided that if any person shall become the owner of a dog at any time after the period hereinbefore mentioned, he may duly register such dog within fifteen days of such time."

The amendment was affirmed, and the clause agreed to.

Clause 11.—Penalty for non-registration:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), in order to follow up the amendment just adopted, moved to insert the following words: "or who shall, after the expiration of fifteen days from the time of his becoming the owner at any other period of the year."

This being agreed to, the clause as amended was put and passed.

Clause 17.—Dogs of aboriginal natives to be destroyed in certain cases:

Several verbal amendments were made in this clause, none of which elicited any discussion. (*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 131.)

Bill reported.

#### LAND GRANT RAILWAYS SCHEMES.

##### ADJOURNED DEBATE.

MR. STEERE said it would be in the recollection of hon. members that the consideration of the 5th sub-section of

the first of the resolutions prepared by the select committee was postponed, in order that an amendment might be drafted, so as to protect the Crown in the matter of frontage. The members of the select committee had, since the adjournment, prepared an amendment which he would now read. As the subject, however, was one of considerable importance he would not ask the House to affirm the amendment that evening, until hon. members had an opportunity of seeing it in print. The sub-section as it was proposed to be amended by the select committee would read as follows:—

"5. That in consideration of the construction, equipment, maintenance, and working of the proposed railway lines the Crown should, upon the completion of every section of twenty miles, grant 12,000 acres of land in fee simple for every mile constructed; to be selected in the following manner:—The land to be granted in blocks of not less than 60,000 acres in extent, and to be situated within 30 miles of either side of the line, all boundaries excepting those abutting on such line being in the direction of or at right angles to the meridian. Provided that one half the frontage to the railway should be left open for the Crown, no selections by the Syndicate being permitted between such frontage and the extreme boundary of the land reserved for selection; provided also, that no one block selected by the syndicate should have a frontage upon the line of more than twenty miles in length, and that between every two of the syndicate's selections, either of which or any part thereof is situated within 15 miles of the line, there should be a frontage interval of ten miles. Seventy-five per cent. of the amount of land per mile agreed upon as payment for the construction of the lines should be given by Crown grants to the Syndicates upon completion to the satisfaction of the Government of each twenty-mile section, while the deeds of grant for the remaining 25 per cent. should not be issued until the whole of the line had been constructed. And in case the contract were not completed within the time agreed upon, unless such non-completion were due to some

"inevitable cause or to some act of the Government, the said 25 per cent. should not be granted, and all rights thereto should be forfeited."

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

#### DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), in moving the second reading of a Bill to provide for the destruction of rabbits, said it would not be necessary for him to detain the House more than a few seconds. It was well known that, in some of the other colonies, rabbits had increased to such an extent as to become a scourge to the districts where they prevailed; and, although he believed that at present it would be very difficult—so he was informed—to come across any rabbits on the mainland of this colony, still it was feared by those who understood the question that, before long, unless some Act of this kind was passed, rabbits may begin to abound here, and abound to such an extent that they may prove a nuisance. The present Bill was intended to forestall that danger. The first penal clause of the Bill (clause 3) was rather a sweeping clause, and might seem to a certain extent to be an infringement of that liberty which an Englishman at any rate thought he was entitled to—the right of keeping such domestic animals as he pleased. But they all knew that everyone's private feelings must give way to the public good, and it appeared, according to the views of those who had studied this rabbit question, that the only way in which the evil could be combated effectually was by rendering it unlawful for any one to keep a rabbit, tame or otherwise, in his possession, which was what this clause did. The Act went on to provide for the appointment of inspectors for the purpose of carrying out its provisions, and whose duty it would be to see that the occupiers of land upon which there were any rabbits shall take immediate steps for their destruction, failing which the inspector himself might enter upon the land and do all things necessary for the extermination of the rabbits. Provision was also made for the payment of a reward for the production of the scalp of a rabbit recently killed, and everything was done

that could be done to prevent the introduction and spread of these animals.

MR. RANDELL would like to inform the hon. and learned gentleman in charge of the Bill that some time ago an Act was passed in the colony for the destruction of infected vines, and in that Act, as in this Bill, provision was made for the appointment of inspectors, but no provision was made for paying them for their services. The result, as regards the Vines Act, was that the Governor did not feel himself justified in appointing inspectors, and, as no one seemed willing to accept an honorary inspectorship, the Act remained a dead letter, which possibly might be the case with this Rabbit Bill unless the House made some provision for the payment of these inspectors, and for carrying out the requirements of the Act.

MR. STEERE presumed the duties of inspectors would for the present be carried out by the police; the duties could not be very onerous. At the same time money would be wanted to carry out the provisions of the Act in other respects. The sixth clause, for instance, empowered the inspectors to take efficient means for destroying rabbits on any land, if the occupier refused or neglected to do so, and this could not be done without incurring some expense, and possibly a great deal of expense. He thought the owner of the land ought to pay the expenses when it was done on private land. By the 8th clause the inspectors were also empowered to enter upon any unoccupied or reserved Crown Lands for this purpose, or authorise other persons to do so, all of which would cost money, and certainly some provision would have to be made on the Estimates to meet the expenses that would have to be incurred, otherwise he failed to see how we were going to destroy any rabbits. Under the 9th clause, it was proposed to offer a reward for the production of the scalps of rabbits, and it would be necessary to make provision for the payment of these rewards, small as it might be.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) was much obliged to the hon. member for drawing attention to these points. Of course they had not escaped the attention of the Government, and, as the hon. member himself observed, the expense, for the present at any rate,

would be very small,—it was to be hoped none at all. They were told there were no rabbits at present on the mainland, and this Act made it unlawful for any person to introduce them, so that there could not be much to be done in the way of destroying rabbits. Policemen would probably be employed to do what there was to be done for the present, and, should it be thought likely that funds would be required, no doubt funds would be asked for.

MR. CROWTHER was informed on good authority that there were a considerable number of rabbits Albany way and down South, running wild in the bush, and, judging by the experiences of the other colonies, it would not be long before they spread all over the colony, unless immediate steps were taken for their destruction, so as to stamp out the pest. If a few rabbits were to get about, in a wild state, among the sandhills in the Victoria District, no Government in the world could eradicate them, and the result would be, instead of the Government driving them out, the rabbits would drive out the people.

MR. SHENTON thought it would be far better to vote the necessary funds at once, than be guided in a matter like this by any notions of false economy.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he had travelled about the colony a good deal, but he had never seen a rabbit, in the bush, in all his travels.

The motion for the second reading of the Bill was then agreed to.

#### ESTIMATES, 1884.

The House then went into committee for the consideration of the Estimates for 1884.

*Governor's Establishment*, Item £443 16s. 8d.:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, with reference to the first item, "Aide-de-Camp £120," that His Excellency had appointed an officer to that position, and that in all probability he would be here towards the close of the year.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Legislative Council*, Item £755:

MR. MARMION expressed a hope that the Sergeant-at-Arms, an officer who, by

his invariably courteous attention to his duties, was entitled to the consideration of hon. members, would not be forgotten when the question of the increase of salaries came to be dealt with by the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said no one had a greater respect for the holder of the office referred to than he had, and he hoped next year to see his merits duly recognised.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Colonial Secretary's Department*, Item £1,432:

MR. CROWTHER asked what was the meaning of the proposed increase of £50 in the salary of the chief clerk.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it did not necessarily follow that the amount here put down opposite the chief clerk's salary would be required, but he might state that great difficulty had been met in finding a capable officer to undertake the duties of first class clerk in the Colonial Secretary's department. The work of the office had increased greatly of late, and it was absolutely necessary to have an efficient clerk to fill this position. His desire was to make the department as efficient as possible in all its parts.

MR. CROWTHER said it certainly did seem strange that in this particular instance the chief clerk should have an advance of £50, making his salary £250, when other and equally deserving men who had been in the service over twenty years had to be content with £200.

MR. SHENTON said if he was not very much mistaken this officer was not drawing more than half this salary last year, and it certainly did seem unfair to the officers employed in other departments. Once a clerk got into the Colonial Secretary's office he seemed to be always well provided for, while the clerks in other offices had to take their chance of a £10 rise. He did not see why a clerk who happened to be transferred to this particular office should get this increase, thereby creating a feeling of dissatisfaction throughout the whole service.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it ought to have a contrary effect, and, instead of creating a feeling of dissatisfaction, act as a stimulus to emulation, and be looked

upon as the reward of meritorious services. No really capable officer could be expected to undertake the duties of chief clerk in this department at a less salary. A number of officers were offered the appointment, but they were not disposed to accept it, unless the salary was increased.

MR. MARMION said there appeared to be a classification system in the service which was adhered to when convenient, and departed from when it suited the Government. He thought the system ought to be adhered to throughout the service, or be knocked on the head altogether. It would be as well if the Government would during the recess, if they considered the system a bad one, introduce another system, under which officers in the public service might be able to understand their status and position.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the same thing had been in his own mind for a long time. His sole object was to do justice to all the officers, and he should be very glad indeed if some system were introduced which would ensure this object being attained in all cases. Probably something might be done in this direction by next year.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Treasury Department, Item £1,370:*

MR. STEERE expressed his surprise at seeing a new item here—"Colonial Treasurer, £100." He believed the salaries now received by this officer from the Colonial and the Imperial Governments amounted to £700, which, he thought, was very good pay for him indeed. At any rate he did not think the House, having set its face against voting any increases this year, should make an exception in favor of this particular officer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had been instructed by His Excellency the Governor to place this item on the Estimates, in pursuance of the terms of a despatch dated 19th March, last year, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, acknowledging the receipt of a despatch from Governor Robinson, forwarding a letter from Mr. Lefroy applying for an increase of salary. Lord Derby said he approved of the proposal that an application should be made to the Council for the additional salary

asked for, and authorised His Excellency to bring the matter before the Legislature, which, accordingly, had been done, with the approval of the present Governor, who had authorised this sum being placed on the Estimates. He hoped hon. members would accede to the proposed increase.

MR. STEERE thought it would be a very bad precedent indeed to set, that officers in the colonial service should thus appeal to the Secretary of State behind the back as it were of the Legislature. He was very glad indeed to find that the Secretary of State had very properly declined to have anything to do with it, beyond referring it to the Council for its approval. It was simply an indirect way of trying to bring pressure to bear upon that House in the way of giving an increase of salary to a particular officer. He should move that the item be omitted from the vote.

MR. CROWTHER: I shall have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR. CAREY pointed out that the voting of this increase—supposing the House were to vote it, which he hoped it would not—would entail an extra amount of pension to this officer when he retired from the service, which would probably be very soon. The higher the salary he was drawing at the time of his retirement, the higher would be his pension. There was another reason why this increase should not be granted: if it were so, it would place this officer on a footing with the highest paid official under the Government, as regards salary.

MR. BROWN: I think it is more than likely that if this proposal is brought on again for our consideration next year, and the Government are then prepared with a scheme for a general increase of salaries, it will receive my most cordial support, upon grounds which I shall then venture to submit, for I do not think the office of Colonial Treasurer is at present sufficiently paid. But I consider there are some grounds for the course taken by the hon. member for the Swan, inasmuch as the Council has been asked not to take into consideration this session other increases which it is strongly of opinion ought to be made, and has consented to do so. I should therefore prefer to see this item withdrawn for the present, which I think would have been



the correct thing to do, after the expression of opinion on the subject of increasing salaries which the Government communicated to the House.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) thought, in the face of the terms of the despatch from the Secretary of State, that it was not the intention to increase the salary attached to the office of Colonial Treasurer, but merely to increase the salary of the present holder of the office (Mr. Lefroy), in consideration of his long services. He thought that was a view of the question that ought to be considered by hon. members in dealing with this item.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, if the hon. member for the Swan pressed his motion to strike out the item, he must divide the committee on the question.

The committee having divided, there appeared—

Ayes	...	13
Noes	...	7
Majority for	...	6

AYES.  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Carey  
Mr. Crowther  
Mr. Glyde  
Mr. Grant  
Mr. Higham  
Sir L. S. Leake  
Mr. Marmion  
Mr. McRae  
Mr. Shenton  
Mr. Venn  
Mr. Wittenoom  
Mr. Steere (Teller)

NOES.  
Hon. A. P. Hensman  
Hon. J. H. Thomas  
Hon. J. Forrest  
Mr. Burgess  
Mr. Hamersley  
Mr. Randall  
Hon. M. Fraser (Teller)

The item was therefore omitted, and a vote of £1,270 granted for the Treasury Department.

*Audit Department, Item £1,125:*

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

*Survey Department, Item £14,197:*

MR. CROWTHER moved that progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again next day.

Agreed to.

The House adjourned at a quarter before midnight.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 30th August, 1883.

Eastern Railway Terminus Bill: in committee—Propagation of Oysters—Loan Estimates: in committee—Land Grant Railways Schemes: referred to a select committee—Message (No. 32): Forwarding Secretary of State's Despatch as to terms upon which Responsible Government would be granted—Message (No. 33): Forwarding correspondence with Crown Agents relating to result of placing Loan upon the London market—Consideration of Message (No. 31): Hydrophobia—Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Land Regulations: adjourned debate—Imported Labor Registry Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

### EASTERN RAILWAY TERMINUS BILL.

This Bill passed through committee, *sub silentio*.

### PROPAGATION OF OYSTERS.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, moved an address to the Governor praying that he will be pleased to place a small sum of money on the Estimates to try the experiment of introducing the edible oyster, and also the mother-o'-pearl shell of commerce, into the waters in the vicinity of Perth and Fremantle. The hon. member said it had often occurred to him that the oyster, which was so plentiful in some parts of Australia, might be successfully cultivated in these waters. There was evidence to be seen on all hands that at one time oysters must have been plentiful enough in the River Swan, and he saw no reason why they should not become plentiful again. He was also of opinion that the pearl-shell oyster might be successfully introduced into our waters, in this part of the colony. The experiment at any rate would not cost much—probably £50 or a £100 at the utmost. He thought, however, the experiment ought to be persevered in for two or three years, and not given up at once in the event of failure at first.

MR. MARMION thought the experiment was well worthy of consideration, and he saw no reason why both the edible oyster and the pearl-shell oyster could not be reared in these waters.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said provision was already