

district, from all sources of income, during the past three years; also a return of the public expenditure within that district during the same period.

Motion agreed to.

EXCESS BILL, 1882.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said he did not think it was necessary for him, at this stage, to do any more than draw the attention of hon. members to the returns already laid on the Table, as prepared by the Colonial Treasurer,* showing the expenditure for the service of the past year compared with the amounts voted on the Estimates for that year. These returns, together with the remarks of the Auditor General appended thereto, would furnish the House with all particulars as to the various overdrafts, and as he understood it was proposed to follow the usual course with regard to the Bill—refer it to a Select Committee—he would not trespass further upon the time of the House, by going into any details with reference to the items constituting it.

Motion for second reading agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved, *pro forma*, that the Bill be now considered in Committee of the whole.

MR. SHENTON moved, as an amendment, that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Brown, Mr. Venn, Mr. Crowther, and the mover, and, with leave, Mr. Carey and Mr. Randell.

Amendment put and passed.

MESSAGE (No. 2): RE LAND REGULATIONS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said when this Message was received from His Excellency the Governor, on Friday, it was moved that it should be taken into consideration to-day; but he understood it was the general wish of the House that the Message in the first place should be referred to a Select Committee. That being the case, he would now move that the Message be so referred, and that the Select Committee consist of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Mr. Steere, Mr. McRae, Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Mr. Marmion, and

the mover, and, by leave, Mr. Witte-noom, Mr. Carey, and Mr. Brown.

Agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 24th July, 1883.

Presentation of the Address in Reply—Eastern Railway: Deviation on Second Section—Message (No. 3): Grant of Land for Coffee Palace—Message (No. 4): Papers relating to Mr. Hordern's Scheme for Land Grant Railways—Night Trains during Session of Council—Consideration of Message (No. 1) re Ocean Cable—Imperial Pauper Invalids Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

At half-past twelve o'clock, the Council adjourned to Government House to present the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech. On re-assembling,

THE SPEAKER announced to the Council that the Address to His Excellency the Governor had been presented in accordance with the Resolution of the House, and that His Excellency had been pleased to reply as follows:—

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF
"THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

"I thank you very heartily for your cordial Address in reply to my Speech, and I trust that our mutual desire to advance the interests of the Colony may result in the accomplishment of some useful work during the Session now begun.

"Government House, Perth, 24th July, 1883."

EASTERN RAILWAY: DEVIATION ON SECOND SECTION.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, "To lay on the Table of the House the Departmental Minutes and Report in the matter of the deviation on

* Sessional Paper No. 1, p. 13, et seq.

"the Second Section of the Eastern Rail-way." When he asked for the papers connected with this deviation the other evening, he was told by the Commissioner of Railways that these departmental minutes might be seen at the Colonial Secretary's Office. He thought it was not at all convenient for hon. members to have to go to the Colonial Secretary's Office, and therefore he had asked for their production in the House.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that the hon. member had already received an answer from the Commissioner of Railways, and he could only repeat that answer, namely, that the Departmental Minutes and Reports in the matter could be perused at his (the Colonial Secretary's) office by any hon. member who chose to do so. For obvious reasons it was not desirable that all these documents should be made public, and he hoped the hon. member would be satisfied with the answer given.

MESSAGE (No. 3) : GRANT OF LAND FOR COFFEE PALACE.

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

"The Governor has the honor to lay before the Honorable the Legislative Council a letter addressed to the Colonial Secretary, on the 19th of May last, by Mr. C. G. H. Cooper, applying, on behalf of gentlemen interested in the formation of a Coffee Palace in the City of Perth, for the grant, as a site for the institution, of a certain portion of land adjoining the Working Men's Hall.

"The Governor also transmits copy of a report, dated 22nd May last, upon the application, by the then Acting Commissioner of Railways, Mr. Mason.

"It would appear that the land desired for the site of a Coffee Palace is vested in the Commissioner of Railways, and that it could not be granted in trust for the purpose required, except by previously debiting general revenue and crediting the Railway Loan account with the value of the land, estimated at between £600 and £700.

"The Governor, however, would be glad to further the very laudable object in view, and therefore remits the appli-

cation for the consideration and advice of the Council.

"Government House, Perth, 24th July, 1883."

The consideration of this Message was made an Order of the Day for July 26th.

MESSAGE (No. 4) : PAPERS CONNECTED WITH LAND GRANT RAILWAY SCHEMES.

THE SPEAKER also notified that he had received the following Message from His Excellency the Governor :—

"Referring to paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Speech with which he opened the Session, the Governor lays before the Honorable the Legislative Council additional Papers, as named in the margin,* relative to Mr. Hordern's scheme for Land Grant Railways.

"The Governor will be obliged if the Council will give their consideration to the several proposals in this important matter, and will favor him with their advice thereon.

"The papers in connection with the schemes of (1) Colonel McMurdo, and (2) Sir Julius Vogel, as well as those embodying (3) Mr. Hordern's offer, and the report of the Committee which has considered it, have been printed and are already before the Council.

"Government House, Perth, 24th July, 1883."

* Mr. Hordern to Colonial Secretary, Letter dated 13th June, 1883, and enclosure; Paper detailing particulars of Mr. Hordern's scheme; Telegram, Mr. Hordern to Governor, dated 12th July, 1883,—printed in separate Paper.]

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that this Message be referred to a Select Committee, to consist of the Commissioner of Railways, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Mr. Steere, Sir T. C. Campbell, Mr. Brown, and, by leave, Mr. Randell and Mr. Burt.

MR. SHENTON said Mr. Burt was concerned in one of the schemes, referred to in His Excellency's Message, and might therefore be said to be interested.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: Only as a member of a legal firm representing one of the promoters—not pecuniarily interested.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) substituted the name of Mr. Shenton, in lieu of Mr. Burt's.

MR. MARMION requested that the Select Committee be elected by ballot.

MR. HIGHAM thought that, in a matter of this great importance to the Colony at large, it would be more desirable that these schemes should be discussed in a Committee of the whole House.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL pointed out that the whole matter must eventually be considered in Committee of the Whole—the Select Committee would merely put it into shape, and frame some resolutions upon which the subsequent discussion in Committee of the whole House might be based.

THE SPEAKER: The question has already been put and passed that His Excellency's Message be referred to a Select Committee, and, the hon. member for Fremantle (Mr. Marmion) having demanded a ballot, the Committee must be formed in accordance with the Standing Order.

Members having delivered in the lists of those whom they wished to nominate on the Select Committee,

THE CLERK reported the following members as having the greatest number of votes: Mr. Brown, Mr. Marmion, Mr. Steere, Mr. Randell, Hon. J. H. Thomas, Hon. John Forrest, and Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell.

NIGHT TRAINS, DURING SESSION OF COUNCIL.

MR. MARMION, in accordance with notice, moved the following Resolution: "That it would be gratifying to this Council and to the public if the Commissioner of Railways would give the public the extra convenience of the late night trains between Perth and Fremantle during the present Session of Council." The hon. member said the motion might appear a somewhat selfish one on his part, but he did not bring it forward simply for the convenience of himself and his colleague (Mr. Higham), but rather in the interests of the Fremantle constituency—the most intelligent constituency, as hon. members were aware, in the Colony. He thought it was desirable at all times to mark the time when the Legislature of the Colony was sitting, and a concession like this would remind people of the fact, and would be a graceful concession on the part of the Railway Department to the public. It would

enable the people of Fremantle to share with the inhabitants of the metropolis the privilege, now enjoyed by the latter alone, of listening to the parliamentary debates. It might be said—he had often heard the argument made use of by the railway officials—that this or that train would not pay; but he did not think that this was the proper way to look at the matter. Railways were constructed for the public convenience, and the aggregate revenue derived from the whole service ought to be taken into consideration rather than the receipts for any particular train. He hoped the Commissioner of Railways would gratify the wishes of the House and of the public in this matter.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. H. Thomas): I have no doubt it would be gratifying to the hon. members for Fremantle if this night train were to run, but the fact is—it won't pay. We should be losing by it. I have a higher opinion of the intelligence of the Fremantle people than to think they would come up all the way to Perth to listen to hon. members airing their eloquence in this House. Apart from that, I am quite certain it would not pay to run a night train at this time of the year. Of course, if the Council is of opinion that it ought to run, at a loss, hon. members must not blame me, as Commissioner, if the railway doesn't pay. I cannot be answerable, if the House insists upon running trains that do not yield anything to the revenue. It has constantly been said that railways don't pay—that they are not doing this, that, and the other, and hon. members hold me responsible for it. If hon. members wish it, if this House likes to take the responsibility upon itself, well and good. I don't care.

MR. MARMION was sorry to find that the hon. gentleman had already formed such a poor opinion of his fellow members, and such a low estimate of their oratorical powers, as he seemed to have done. He had been anxiously looking forward to the maiden speech of the hon. gentleman in that House, and he regretted very much that the hon. gentleman, on the very first occasion of addressing the House, had thought proper to assume a tone so uncomplimentary towards an assembly in which he now himself held a seat.

MR. RANDELL thought the question was one of those which ought not to be allowed to crop up in that House, being essentially a departmental question. The Commissioner of Railways, who alone was responsible for the working of our lines, had told them it would not pay to run night trains, and that it would be injudicious to resume them during the winter season. He thought the House ought to be satisfied with the explanation. There was a feeling abroad that we had too many trains already—that the number interfered with the efficiency of the service, and it was just a question whether the number ought not to be reduced. At any rate, he did not think the public had any room whatever to complain as to the present arrangements, and, under all the circumstances, he thought it would be injudicious on the part of the House to agree to the motion.

MR. SHENTON thought the House ought to take a "broad and comprehensive" view of this question. He considered that the inhabitants of Fremantle, the second town of importance in the Colony, had a right to ask this much at their hands, and that the Railway Department might surely grant them this little boon,—even if the train did not pay. For his own part he thought these night trains ought to run all the year round, although, for a time, they might be run at a loss.

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

Ayes	15
Noes	5
Majority for			10

AYES.
Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Burges
Sir T. C. Campbell
Mr. Carey
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Mr. Marmion
Mr. McRae
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Steere
Mr. Venn
Mr. Wittenoom
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)

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

The motion was therefore carried.

CONSIDERATION OF MESSAGE (No. 1) RE OCEAN CABLE PROPOSALS.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of Message No. 1 (p. 65 ante) received from His Excellency the

Governor, relative to the proposal made by Sir Julius Vogel (on behalf of a syndicate), to land a submarine telegraph cable on the North-West coast of this Colony. Accompanying the Message was a copy of the despatches which had passed between the late Governor, Sir William Robinson, and the Secretary of State on the subject, also telegrams between the present Governor and Lord Derby, and some correspondence which had passed between the late Colonial Secretary and Sir Julius Vogel.

MR. STEERE thought hon. members, upon a perusal of all the papers before them, must come to the conclusion that the terms offered to us by Sir Julius Vogel were very favorable indeed, and such as we might well comply with. But he felt bound to say it was a subject of astonishment to himself, as he believed it was to other hon. members, to find, on reference to the correspondence, that this offer was made as long ago as August, 1882, and that it was not communicated to the Legislature when the House was in Session last year. He noticed that Sir Julius Vogel's letter to the Colonial Secretary was dated August 28th, 1882, and the Colonial Secretary's reply was dated September 16th, which was fully a week before the Session closed, and it was inexplicable to him why the matter was not then submitted for the consideration of the House. He thought gentlemen in the position of Sir Julius Vogel, who were desirous of entering into business relations with our Government, had much reason to complain of such delays. There was one matter, however, which the present correspondence disclosed that must be very gratifying to that House. In the past it had been too much the practice of the Executive to ignore the powers of the Legislature in dealing with questions of this nature, and he noticed that Sir William Robinson, when submitting to Lord Derby the correspondence which had taken place between the Government and Sir Julius Vogel on the subject of this proposed concession, made no reference whatever to the Legislative Council, but ignored it altogether, as if there was no such body in existence. Lord Derby, however, told His Excellency very plainly that the

subject was one which should be fully discussed in the local Legislature before Her Majesty's Government could take it into consideration, and that, until that was done, he did not feel he should be justified in coming to any decision upon so important a matter. He (Mr. Steere) thought this must be very gratifying to the hon. members of that House, and, without further preface, he now moved: "That this Council is of opinion that the terms stated in the Colonial Secretary's letter to Sir Julius Vogel, dated the 16th September, 1882, and in His Excellency Sir Wm. Robinson's letter to Sir Julius Vogel, dated the 7th February, 1883, respecting the landing of a Submarine Telegraph Cable on the North-West Coast of this Colony, should be agreed to by the Government; and that His Excellency the Governor be requested to communicate the decision of the Legislative Council to Her Majesty's Secretary of State with the least possible delay."

MR. SHENTON had much pleasure in supporting the motion. He regarded this proposal as one of the most important projects which had been brought before the House, for in addition to swelling the revenue now derived from our telegraph lines it would do much to bring the Colony into greater prominence before the world. A similar proposal was made some years ago, but at that time it was not entertained, chiefly because we had not then the means to extend our own telegraph lines to the North-West coast; but now that a contract had been accepted for that work and the line commenced, all objection to the proposal on that score was at an end. The only question which appeared to him requiring their consideration was the time asked for before the work should be commenced—three years, which he thought was rather a long time, and, if possible, the Government ought to get the promoter of the scheme to reduce it by at least one year.

MR. BROWN said the correspondence now before them brought to light another instance in which the Government of the Colony had ignored and trampled upon the constitutional privileges of that House. Unlike the hon. member for the Swan, he was not at all surprised at this. He was exceedingly

pleased that he was able to support the resolution now before them, for, so far as he could gather, it asked the Government to at once conclude the negotiations opened with Sir Julius Vogel, last year, upon the terms specified in the correspondence. He thought, at first, that possibly it might be desirable for the House to request the Government to postpone the final consideration of the subject until they were placed in possession of the despatch which Lord Derby (in his telegram of the 26th June last) said would be forwarded next mail. That despatch, judging from the tenor of the telegram,* would doubtless be one of great interest to the members of that House and to the Colony at large; and there might be matters contained in it which might possibly affect some of the conditions connected with these proposals. It appeared to him from Lord Derby's telegram, and also from his despatch of the 20th March last, that the Secretary of State intended that the final decision on the subject should rest with the Legislative Council and the Government of this Colony, and that the despatch which is now on the way would empower the Governor to conclude the terms immediately, without further reference to the Secretary of State, as to the exclusive right which Sir Julius Vogel required. Surely it was a matter of great concern to the people of this Colony that no time should have been lost in dealing with an important question of this nature. Surely they were given the right under the present constitution to a voice in the determination of a matter so closely affecting the progress of their Colony. And he was pleased to see that Her Majesty's Secretary of State recognised that right, and recognised it to the full, as was shown in that portion of his despatch in which his lordship told Sir William Robinson that Her Majesty's Government would not even take the question into its consideration until it had been first discussed in that Council. Surely there was no reason why the late Government should not have immediately communicated Sir Julius Vogel's pro-

* "London, June 26th, 1883. To Governor Western Australia. Promoter . . . has been informed question left to Council, subject condition if new colony separated from Western Australia concession shall not bind colony wherein cable not situate. Despatch next mail.—DERBY."

posals to the Legislative Council. There was no reason, he unhesitatingly said, other than that which he had already referred to, namely, a tendency which he regretted to say it had been too much the fashion of the Government of this Colony to follow—the tendency to ignore the Legislative Council. The Legislature was in Session last year when the Governor received Sir Julius Vogel's letter, and when the Colonial Secretary's reply was sent to that letter, stating that the Government were prepared to support generally the terms put forward, but that the question of exclusive right was one which would have to be decided by Her Majesty's Secretary of State, as the lands of the Colony were still vested in the Crown. That House was in Session when the Colonial Secretary told Sir Julius Vogel that, and when he also informed him that the Governor (Sir William Robinson) would be prepared to support the suggestion on that head, and that it would be submitted for the favorable consideration of the Secretary of State. This was in August last, and yet the very first which the people of this Colony had heard of such a proposal, so largely affecting their interests, was a few days ago. This ignoring of the people's rights, this trampling upon their constitutional privileges, it appeared to him, was a matter of exceedingly grave concern, and one which he was sure would not be forgotten when they came to deal with that larger question, which they would soon be called upon to deal with. It was not a pleasant duty to him, although he was no longer among the supporters of the present constitution, to point out in this way the manner in which the legitimate rights of the people, through their representatives, had been ignored and trampled upon. Not so very many years ago he had occasion to speak on the same point—not so strongly as now, very much more temperately than now—and he was then met with the statement that his allegations were disgraceful, uncalled-for, and indecent. On that occasion he had to refer to some seven or eight matters which proved, as he thought this proved and more strongly proved, that tendency of the Government to ignore the Legislature, to which he had referred. He trusted His Excellency would be able to satisfactorily conclude

this arrangement with Sir Julius Vogel, without delay. He regretted, in the interests of the Colony, it had not been settled before now, and he was somewhat surprised that the great delay which had taken place in the matter had not lost to Western Australia the great advantages which he hoped she would yet attain from the fulfilment of the proposed arrangement.

MR. MARMION also expressed his surprise at the unaccountable delay which had occurred in bringing this matter before the House. He observed in the despatch of the 25th October last, from Sir William Robinson to the Secretary of State, that His Excellency said: "The point which I have felt it necessary to reserve for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government is as to the exclusive right which Sir Julius Vogel requires. The request is reasonable, and follows, I believe, the precedent adopted in South Australia; but, inasmuch as the lands of the Colony are still vested exclusively in the Crown, I have thought it right to reserve this point for your lordship's decision." But, surely there was no reason why the proposals should not have been communicated to that House,—which, so far as the late Government was concerned, appeared to have been entirely ignored in the matter. It was very gratifying, however, to find that Her Majesty's Secretary of State fully recognised the rights and privileges of the House to discuss questions of this character, and, in fact, left the question to be decided by that House. He thought this was as great a compliment to the Legislature as they could expect, coming as it did from the Secretary of State himself; and it went to prove that the Legislature, under the present constitution, after all, was not the powerless nonentity which some people sought to make it out. As to the terms of the proposed concession, the time asked for before commencing the work, and the period within which it was proposed to complete it (five years), certainly seemed long, and he should have liked to have seen it lessened. There was another thing which he thought was somewhat vague, as regards one of the concessions asked for. He referred to the "right to transmit messages from terminus in Western Australia to other colonies at existing rates, plus one penny per word."

This was not very clear. It might be said it was quite understood that what was meant by the "terminus" was the terminus of the cable, but he thought it was very ambiguous, and might hereafter lead to litigation. As to "existing rates," we had no rates at present existing from Roebourne, or any part of the North-West where the terminus of the cable would be, as our lines as yet do not extend that far. He thought it might be as well to provide that the rates shall be such rates as may be laid down by the Government of the Colony for the time being. It was quite possible Sir Julius Vogel may have intended that these messages should be allowed to run over our land lines free—there being no "existing rates"—and that the only revenue we should receive would be the penny per word. With regard to the policy of granting the concession asked for there could be no doubt—apart from these questions of detail. He noticed by the telegram sent by the Governor to the Secretary of State that there seemed to be some doubt at first as to whether the promoter of the scheme would be agreeable to any discussion taking place with reference to it, and it would appear from this that there was some understanding between Sir Julius Vogel and the Government which it was not considered desirable to be made public, for some time at all events. He thought that, in a matter of this kind, dealing with a public scheme, there should have been no secrecy, and that it should have been made known as soon as possible. Had these proposals been made known some time ago it was just within the bounds of possibility that even a more advantageous offer might have been made to the Colony, and we might have benefited considerably by the publicity given to the project.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) thought we ought to be very careful not to bind ourselves too tightly, without getting anything in return. He noticed that the promoter of the scheme asked for three years within which to commence the undertaking, and five years to complete it, and he also asked for the exclusive right to land a cable on our shores, for the next twenty-one years. As a consequence, we should probably have to

wait three years before anything further is done in the matter, and at the end of that time the promoters of the present project might give it up, and say they had no intention of going on with it. He thought we ought to bind them to commence the work pretty quickly, and not to let Sir Julius Vogel have it all his own way. He had made an offer certainly, but he had not guaranteed in any way to carry it out, and if we approved of these proposals, we would bind ourselves for the next three years to allow him the exclusive right of doing anything in this matter,—should he see his way clear to do so. At all events, he (Mr. Forrest) thought we ought to have some guaranty as to the *bona fides* of the affair.

MR. CAREY thought the members of that House had sufficient confidence in the members of the present Government to leave this matter in their hands. He was surprised to find a member of the Executive bench raising such an objection. He thought the proposals put forward were so advantageous to the Colony at large, and so manifest, that every hon. member of that House would be ready to accept the offer now made.

MR. CROWTHER, referring to a similar offer which was made some years ago, but which fell through, said it was very likely, unless they availed themselves of the present opportunity, the proposals now before them would share the same fate. He felt quite certain that neither this Government nor the Home Government, when they entertained this scheme and concluded the agreement with the promoters, would allow any loophole for Sir Julius Vogel or any one else to play fast and loose with us for the next three years, and then to wriggle out of the project altogether. We must bear in mind that within these three years the proposed syndicate must in the first place be formed, and they must then raise the necessary capital; in addition to that, there were many other things to be done that would take up both time and money, and he did not himself think that three years' grace was too long a time to give them. At all events, he felt quite sure the House might safely leave the matter in the hands of the present Government, to negotiate, and that as soon as possible, on the lines of the pro-

posal now under consideration. He took it that what the promoters contemplated as regards the extra penny per word, was that the existing rates now in force would remain in force, after our land line is extended to the North-West, and that we shall not charge any more than we do now, and that this penny per word plus the existing rates would go to the Government for the use of our land lines. He regretted very much that the late Administration did not think fit to communicate the substance of these proposals to the House last year. They may have had good reasons for not doing so, but they were quite beyond his limited understanding.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members had taken exception—and, so far as he was able to observe, it was the only real objection raised with regard to these proposals—because the Government had not brought them before the House at an earlier date. It was, however, quite impracticable for the Government to have done so when the Council was in Session last year. Hon. members would agree with him there was nothing so unpalatable as unripe fruit, and nothing reflected so much upon those whose business it was to bring forward any proposal of this character as to bring it forward in a crude, undigested, and indigestible form. If hon. members would look at the date of the last telegram received from Lord Derby (26th June ultimo), they would find that that was the earliest possible date at which the Government felt themselves at liberty to submit these proposals for discussion, and he did not think it could be said they had been in any way dilatory in the matter. Until they received that telegram, which was not yet a month old, from the Secretary of State, the Government did not feel at liberty to give any publicity to these proposals, which were accepted by the Government, at the time they were first made, as confidential. Sir Julius Vogel, who was then on a visit to the other colonies, wished, before the project was publicly discussed, to communicate with capitalists and others at home, in order to see how far the scheme was likely to meet with support. Hon. members would observe that a considerable time elapsed between the date of the first letter addressed by Sir Julius

to this Government (August 28th), and the date of Sir William Robinson's first letter to the Secretary of State (October 25th), the reason of this being that Sir Julius Vogel, who at that time was busily engaged on private affairs, was unable to proceed with this business, and therefore by mutual consent proceedings were stayed. Since then Sir Julius Vogel had returned to England, and the consideration of the project was resumed, and shortly after the arrival of the present Governor, His Excellency, in order to lose no time in the matter, wired to the Secretary of State, requesting him to ask Sir Julius Vogel if he had any objection to the scheme being now discussed publicly, so that, in the event of there being no objection, the matter might be submitted for the consideration of the House this Session. Until the receipt of the Secretary of State's reply, about three weeks ago, stating that the promoter of the scheme agreed to its being publicly discussed, the Government did not feel they would have been justified in giving publicity to these proposals. With regard to what had been said as to the period of three years, which the syndicate asked for, within which to commence the work, it must be borne in mind that our own overland line to Roebourne would not be completed for nearly two years from this date, and, until it was completed, a cable laid down to our North-West coast would be of no use. A question had been raised as to the meaning of the words "right to transmit messages from terminus in Western Australia to other colonies at existing rates, plus one penny per word." He thought—speaking merely as a member of that House, and without any official responsibility—that what Sir Julius Vogel meant was this: that, as our present rates are based on a fixed scale of charges, the promoters are willing to pay us, in excess of that scale, one penny per word for the privilege of using our own lines. That was how he read the clause. Hon. members were aware that in the past he had taken much interest in this question. In 1877, when he went to Sydney to attend the Intercolonial Conference, as the delegate of this Government, he did all in his power then to induce the other colonies to have a cable laid to our North-

West coast, in preference to the duplication of the Port Darwin cable; but at that time he did not meet with the support he had expected. He told the other delegates, however, that we should yet have a cable laid to the North-West coast of this Colony before they attained their rival object, of a cable from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Java, and he was now glad to think there was some prospect of his prophecy being fulfilled, and that Western Australia would soon be placed in the foremost place as regards telegraphic communication with Europe. Looking at this project, in conjunction with the other important proposals awaiting our consideration, with a view to connect us with the other colonies by rail,—if the year 1890 saw us in the enjoyment of direct cable communication with Europe, and direct railway communication with our Eastern neighbors—if not established, at any rate in a fair way of being accomplished—he thought we might fairly congratulate ourselves upon the progress we were making. He had much pleasure in supporting the resolution put forward by the hon. member for the Swan, for he thought that in a matter of this kind, where the advantages were all on one side, we could not reasonably expect to dictate our own terms. The proposals now put forward, were put forward as a speculation, and, as hon. members were aware, the Colony itself was now speculating in various directions, and if we succeeded in getting so distinguished and successful a speculator as Sir Julius Vogel to take an active interest in the Colony, as he had done in another Colony (New Zealand), and if, in the result, we attained only a portion of the success and prestige which New Zealand owed to the exertions of Sir Julius Vogel, we should have no reason to regret or to be dissatisfied with the negotiations which we were now about to enter into with that gentleman.

The resolution was then put to the House and agreed to unanimously.

IMPERIAL PAUPER INVALIDS BILL.

This Bill was agreed to in Committee, *sub silentio*.

The House adjourned at a quarter-past three o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 25th July, 1883.

Message (No. 5): Reports on Kimberley District—
Message (No. 6): Proposed Transfer of Lunatic Asylum—Posting shipping news at Perth Telegraph Station—Reports of Mr. Foss on the Murchison and Gascoyne Districts—Rottneest Penal Establishment: treatment of native prisoners—Return of Leases Pastoral Lands in Kimberley and Eucla—Grand Jury Abolition Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE (No. 5): REPORTS ON KIMBERLEY DISTRICT.

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

"In reply to Address No. 2, of the 23rd inst., the Governor forwards to the Honorable the Legislative Council, for their information, a report dated the 28th May last, received from the Government Resident for the Kimberley District.

"Captain Archdeacon's report upon King Sound has been published, but a copy is transmitted.

"Government House, Perth, 25th July, 1883."

MESSAGE (No. 6): TRANSFER OF LUNATIC ASYLUM, FREMANTLE.

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

"The Governor lays before the Honorable the Legislative Council Despatch No. 52, dated the 11th of April last, from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with enclosures, respecting the proposed transfer of the Lunatic Asylum from the Imperial to the Local Government.

"This subject was alluded to in paragraph 26 of the Speech with which the Governor opened the Session.

"It will be seen that the Imperial Government propose to transfer the Lunatic Asylum and its management entirely to the Colonial authorities, who will be reimbursed the cost of lunatics chargeable to Imperial funds, at the rate of £42 per head per annum.