

allow a man to hold so much land as some lessees held in the North; but it must be borne in mind that a large portion of such land, owing to the aridity of the climate, was useless. They might have years of drought, and not a blade of grass to be seen upon it. This was a consideration which some hon. members lost sight of. It was necessary for lessees to hold immense areas of country, for which they had to pay rent, although a great deal of it could not be made use of; and the losses which pastoral lessees had to put up with were very serious. Probably there would be no less than 60,000 or 100,000 sheep lost this season in this North district of ours, unless they were favored with immediate rains. Taking all this into consideration, he thought they might fairly look for some security of tenure. Though he was opposed to a great deal in the proposed regulations, he thought that on the whole they were calculated to prove beneficial to the colony.

MR. RANDELL moved that progress be reported. He thought that the Surveyor General should have some time to prepare his reply to the various speeches which had been made, and the criticisms passed upon these regulations, and it was in the interest of that hon. gentleman that he made the present motion.

Motion agreed to.

The debate was then adjourned.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 19th July, 1886.

Telephone Exchange between Perth and Fremantle—Clackline and Newcastle Branch Railway—Time of departure of Adelaide Steamship Co.'s Steamers from Albany—Supplementary Estimates, 1886, introduced—Opium Duty Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BETWEEN PERTH AND FREMANTLE.

MR. SHENTON asked the Director of Public Works when it was intended to commence the construction of the proposed telephone exchange between Perth and Fremantle?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): The telephone exchange will be commenced as soon as the Inspector of Telephones, now engaged on the Albany Breaksea telegraph cable line, arrives in Perth. That line is now completed, and I expect him here by the next steamer. At the same time, I must inform the Council that we have so far, in answer to our advertisements, only received twenty-four applications from Perth and eight from Fremantle for telephone communication. This, as hon. members will understand, has considerably altered our calculations as to the rate at which the telephone exchange can be obtained.

CLACKLINE AND NEWCASTLE BRANCH RAILWAY.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Engineer-in-Chief when it was proposed to call tenders for the construction of the Eastern Railway between Clackline and Newcastle?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied that the trial surveys were completed, and that so soon as the permanent surveys were finished—which, he hoped, would be in about three weeks—steps would be at once taken to let the contract for the construction of the line.

DEPARTURE OF STEAMERS FROM ADELAIDE AND ARRIVAL AT ALBANY.

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 make arrangements, if practicable, with the Adelaide Steamship Company, whereby their steamers, on the trip from Adelaide to Fremantle, might reach Albany on the Wednesday in each month coinciding with the arrival of the outward P. & O. steamers;

"thus affording passengers arriving by the P. & O. steamers an opportunity of reaching this portion of the colony without the delay that takes place at present." The hon. member said that at present the Adelaide Steamship Company, for their own convenience, had a fortnightly service between Adelaide and Fremantle, but the arrival of their steamers at Albany was so timed as to cause several days delay to passengers arriving there by the P. & O. mail steamers. Looking at the large subsidy which we were paying this company, he thought the House had a right to ask the Government to enter into some negotiations with the company so that arrangements might be made for the arrival of their steamers at Albany on the Wednesday when the P. & O. steamers arrived. He was aware that the P. & O. steamers sometimes arrived the day before; still, it would be better to fix the arrival of the coastal steamer on the day on which the P. & O. steamer was due according to the published time-table. By this means not only would passengers arriving from England be in a position to reach this part of the colony without being delayed at Albany, as they were at present, but also, in a few years hence, he believed we might be able to dispense with the present overland service from Albany. But he brought the matter before the House more particularly in the interests of the large number of passengers who were now coming into the colony by way of Albany; and he had no doubt a still larger number would come were it not for this vexatious delay at King George's Sound, where passengers were detained for about ten days, simply because the subsidised steamer did not time its departure from Adelaide so as to connect with the P. & O. steamers. He thought the Council would be justified in asking the Government to request the Adelaide Steamship Co. to alter their present arrangements, so as to suit the convenience of the public. If the company declined to do so, the Government would probably be able to make arrangements with some other company. But, in the first place, he brought his motion forward in order that, if possible, arrangements might be made with the present company.

The motion was then put and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1886.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), having moved the House into committee for the purpose of considering the Supplementary Estimates for the current year, said: Mr. Chairman—as, on a future occasion, at a later period of the session, I shall have an opportunity of dealing more in detail with the financial position of the colony, I shall on this occasion make my remarks as brief as possible consistent with lucidity. On a recent occasion, when introducing the Excess Bill, I was in a position to say that it was a very small one, and also that hon. members would be gratified at finding that these bills were getting smaller by degrees and beautifully less. I am afraid, sir, that these remarks are not applicable on this occasion. The amount of the supplementary estimate for which the sanction of the committee is now asked is certainly a large one—larger than any one that has been submitted in this House before, amounting as it does to the sum of £75,971 3s. 11d. But when I explain the salient features of these estimates to the committee, I feel confident that hon. members will admit that the expenditure incurred, or which it is proposed to incur, is unavoidable, and that, in fact, the Government would have shown singular incapacity for administration had they hesitated, under the circumstances, to have applied to the committee of the Audit Act for permission to incur it. I may add, sir, that whatever expenditure has been incurred was, before it was expended, referred in all cases to that committee. I think that probably hon. members will agree with me when I say that it is a source of congratulation perhaps that events have arisen which have necessitated this expenditure, and not only that, but also that the coffers of our Treasury should have been full enough to meet it. Some may consider that the Government has been over-cautious; but I hardly think, sir, having in view the permanent expenditure that is necessitated by this present outlay—I hardly think, sir, that the Government can justly be blamed for that over-caution. The chief items on the present estimate are as follows—the amounts will be found split up and classified under different heads, but the principal items of expenditure for which

I have to ask the confirmation of the committee are these. In the first place the establishment of Government at Cambridge Gulf, following upon the discovery of the Kimberley goldfields, has, I may say, involved an expenditure of £6,000; the surveys in connection with Kimberley, Gascoyne, Murchison, and the Central District require a sum of £6,700,—of this amount £5,000 has been authorised by the Finance Committee; another £1,000 has been found necessary for the Central District, and an additional £700 is required for unavoidable expenditure connected with the surveys at the North. The Railway Department requires an additional £5,521, made up chiefly as follows: duplicate parts for engines, £2,531 12s.; fitting trains with continuous brake-power, £2,000; stationary engine, Fremantle workshops, £240; and repairs connected with the late accident on the Eastern Railway at Cape Horn, £750. The Lunatic Asylum at Fremantle requires £1,500, arising out of the transfer of the Convict Establishment from the Imperial to the Colonial Government. Public works at Derby call for an immediate expenditure of a little over £10,000, and extra police for West Kimberley will require £2,000; a warden, and buildings in various parts of the colony, and escort for the goldfields, £6,000; works and buildings at Wyndham, £6,000; works £7,284; roads and bridges, £7,950; extension of steam service to Wyndham, £1,576; the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, £1,350; the purchase of Kimberley gold for exhibition in our court at South Kensington; and £1,000 for immigration purposes. These are the principal items of expenditure, amounting to £63,656 odd, leaving a balance of £12,315, composed of various items, which I shall be able to explain further on—chiefly expenditure connected with the Printing Department, the Customs, and the Postal and Telegraph Department. Now, sir, as to ways and means. We commenced the year 1885 with a credit balance of £75,165 9s. 10d., and the estimated revenue for the year amounted to £295,666, the estimated expenditure being £294,891. But we find that the actual revenue amounted to £323,213, and the actual expenditure to £308,848, so that we commenced the current year

with a credit balance of £89,529. Our estimated revenue for 1886 was £321,225, and our estimated expenditure £343,217 11s. 5d. Now, sir, if we were to adopt the simple plan of adding the revenue to the credit balance, and the proposed supplementary expenditure to the original estimated expenditure, and deduct one from the other, I am afraid we should find ourselves in a somewhat embarrassed state. But there is another process of calculation, and a very legitimate one, which, I think, will enable us to arrive at a more correct and at the same time a more satisfactory conclusion. I allude to the one which appears on the financial statement in the hands of hon. members. Our revenue for the whole of the current year was estimated at £321,225, but we find that at the end of the first half-year we had received £202,782 16s. 4d.; and, being in a far better position now to judge than we were last year, when the Estimates were framed, what we are likely to receive during the second half of this year, I think I have acted within bounds in assuming—on the grounds shown by the figures in the return attached to the financial statement in hon. members' hands—that we may safely expect during the present half-year a revenue of £158,038 15s. Perhaps hon. members will allow me just to refer to one or two of the principal items under the head of revenue. The estimated revenue which we anticipated to receive from the Customs for the whole year was £129,150; but we find that during the first half-year our receipts from this source amounted to £71,614; and, as the revenue received during the second half of the last year amounted to £74,664, I think we may reasonably expect to receive during the corresponding half of the current year a sum of £78,000, which, if realised, will give us an excess for the year, over the original estimate of Customs revenue, of £20,464. So with postages and commission on money orders. The total estimate for the year was £9,300, but we received during the first half year from these sources a sum of £5,425; and, I think, seeing that the revenue derived during the second half of last year from postage and commissions amounted to £5,133, we may safely calculate upon receiving during the remaining half of

the current year a sum of £5,465. Then, again, as regards our receipts from telegrams. The estimated revenue for the whole year was £4,500, but, during the first six months, we received from this source a sum of £3,694, and, as the receipts for the second half of last year amounted to £2,658, I think we may calculate on receiving £3,734 during the corresponding period this year. The estimated mail van receipts for the year was £1,000, and during the first half year we received £899 10s. 7d. from this source. The revenue from the same source during the second half of the year 1885 was £933, and we may safely estimate upon receiving about £900 during the second half of the current year. The estimated amount of the whole year's railway receipts was £30,000, and, during the first half year, our revenue from this source amounted to £16,085. The amount received from our railways during the second half of last year amounted to £15,804, and, I think, we have every reason to expect that our receipts for the corresponding half of this year will amount to £19,214, which, if our expectations are realised, will give us an excess over the original estimated revenue of £5,300. As regards the stamp revenue, we originally calculated upon receiving £6,000 from this source during the current year, but the actual receipts for the first six months ending 30th June last amounted to £3,785, and, basing our calculations upon the revenue derived during the second half of last year (£3,763), we may safely calculate upon receiving the sum here set down for the corresponding period of the current year—£3,124, which would give us an excess of £1,000 over the original estimate for the year. By adding the whole of our present estimated revenue for the remainder of the year to the actual amount received during the first half year, and including the credit balance with which we commenced the year, we shall have at the end of the year a sum of £450,351—at least I venture to hope that we shall. Turning now to the expenditure for the current year, we may safely assume in the first instance that the normal expenditure, as originally estimated, £343,217 11s. 5d., will be incurred; and, adding to that sum the amount of the present Supplementary Estimates (£75,971 8s. 11d.),

we have a total expenditure of £419,188 15s. 4d. Deducting this amount from the anticipated revenue, we shall close the current year with a credit balance of £31,162 12s. 3d. I would here point out that some of the items on the Supplementary Estimates—there are two I may mention at once, namely, £1,500 for the Lunatic Asylum, and £1,000 for Immigration—will probably not be required, but it is considered necessary to make provision for them, as, under the Audit Act, an overdraft under one head cannot be adjusted by an under-draft from another. That, sir, is our financial position at the present time, and, although it is considered a salutary rule never to prophesy unless you are certain, I think I am safe in predicting that even should this estimated expenditure be slightly increased during the year, we shall close the year with a credit balance of over £30,000. As the various items upon these estimates come before the committee, I shall be prepared to give hon. members any information that lies in my power with regard to any of them, and I will now move the first item—"Governor's establishment; clerk £40." With regard to this item, I may state that, since these estimates were printed, His Excellency directed me to include this amount in them, for this reason: it is to provide a sum to increase the salary of the clerk in the Governor's office to £300 a year. This will not involve any additional expenditure, as His Excellency's aide-de-camp—for whom provision is made upon the annual estimates for £120 a year—is about to leave, and His Excellency does not propose to fill his place up. I need hardly say that the clerk to the Governor holds a very confidential position, and His Excellency desires that he should be in receipt of a salary that would not make him anxious to be removed from the office, on promotion. It so happens that the clerk to the Governor, when a Governor is on the point of leaving the colony, is, generally speaking, promoted and transferred to some other office, which is very inconvenient, as, upon the arrival of a new Governor, there is no one in the office who knows anything about the place. I think hon. members will admit that it is desirable that this officer should be placed in a position which, as regards his salary,

would make him content to remain where he is, and not be anxious to be removed to some other office, when entitled to promotion.

MR. SHENTON said that before going into these estimates he should like to say a few words with reference to the amended estimate of revenue for the current year. He had gone carefully through the various items of revenue, and, as regards the Customs, he had no doubt that in view of the large influx of population which might be expected between this and the end of the year, the increased estimate under this head would be realised,—that was, if the necessary precautions were taken for the protection of the revenue in our Northern territory. As was mentioned the other day, by the hon. member for Fremantle, the very lax way in which the revenue was being collected in that district, where, he believed, large quantities of goods were landed for Kimberley without the payment of any duty whatever, must result in a serious loss to the revenue, unless immediate steps were taken to collect the duties in that district. If this were done, he had no doubt that the estimated revenue from the Customs would be realised. But he was not so sanguine as to there being an excess of £8,500 upon the original estimate of revenue from land sales, seeing that the land mania which had helped to swell the revenue during the first half of the year was now slightly abating,—although no doubt there would still be considerable sales of land in the Kimberley district. But he did not share the Colonial Secretary's anticipations that so large a sum as £14,316 would be realised from land sales during the remainder of this year. With regard to the amended estimate of railway receipts, he hoped it would be realised, though the amount received during the last three months did not show a proportionate increase with the amount received during the first three months of the year. But, taking into consideration that during the last quarter of the year we should have the season's wool coming down, and probably an increase of passenger traffic about Christmas time, he was in hopes that this estimate would be realised, although he was aware that in some quarters doubts were entertained on the

subject. The Colonial Secretary had given them no explanation as to the item "Special Receipts," from which the Government had received £2,400 during the first half of the year, though the estimate for the whole year was only £1,000, and it was expected that by the end of the year there would be an excess on this item of £1,670 18s. 5d. What were the receipts derived from?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): They are derived from various sources. I am not at present in a position to give the detailed receipts, but shall be able to do so later on, if hon. members wish.

MR. MARMION asked whether it was the intention of the Government to proceed with these Estimates that evening?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): If we can.

MR. MARMION said he had no desire himself to postpone the work of the committee, but he should have liked to have had a little more time to have looked into these Estimates. It appeared to him there was no particular object in passing them that evening; there were the Land Regulations to go on with.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I am entirely in the hands of hon. members.

MR. BURGESS said it seemed to be the desire of hon. members who resided in Perth or Fremantle to put off the public business, which was very unfair, to say the least of it, towards country members. He (Mr. Burgess) had had time to go through these Estimates, and he thought other hon. members had. If hon. members' own private business interfered with their attending to the public business, let them put their private business on one side, and attend to the work of the House. He thought it was really becoming a serious matter for country members, these continual motions for adjournment.

MR. MARMION said that when he saw the hon. member opposite (Mr. Burgess) rising, he thought the committee were going to be favored with an elaborate review of the financial position, but he was afraid that the hon. member's speech had not tended much to elucidate the figures before them. He (Mr. Marmion) was not one of those who, as a rule, cared to postpone the work of the House, and

he did not think any member devoted more time to the work of the House than he did, and it was in the interests of the public that he wished to have more time before going on with these Estimates, instead of rushing them through. He had every sympathy with country members, but at the same time he must remind the hon. member that it was not only during the sitting of the Council that town members devoted their time to public business, but throughout the whole year, and often when country members were enjoying themselves in their rural homes.

MR. BURGESS: I may inform the hon. member that country gentlemen have their share of public work to do without coming to Perth to do it, and they have not so much leisure as the hon. member imagines they have. I hope we shall proceed with these Estimates this evening. I am not at all anxious to see anything hurried through the House—I am as anxious as the hon. member himself to see every item fully discussed—but I certainly must oppose any unnecessary adjournments.

MR. LAYMAN said he was not one of those who wished to see the work of the Council put off from time to time,—it was a bad practice; but, as they had plenty of other work besides these Estimates before them, he saw no objection to postpone their consideration, especially when the hon. member for Fremantle, who was one of their brightest stars, did not feel in a position to throw any light upon the subject.

MR. SCOTT said he understood the Acting Colonial Secretary to say that the Government did not intend to expend the vote of £1,500 for the Lunatic Asylum at present. He presumed this was intended to provide increased accommodation at the asylum, so as to enable the more dangerous patients to be separated from the rest. Was that the idea?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that was not the idea. Last session a sum of £8,000 was taken for the Convict Establishment, in view of its transfer to the Colonial Government; and the Lunatic Asylum formerly, when the two establishments were under the Imperial Government, was treated as part of the

Convict Establishment, but, since the transfer, the prison and the asylum had been separated, the former being under the charge of the Inspector of Prisons and the latter under the charge of the Surgeon Superintendent, and it was necessary to classify the Asylum under that head, and this £1,500 would come out of the £8,000 voted last year for the Convict Establishment.

MR. SCOTT: Then it is simply for the maintenance of the Asylum as it now exists?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): That is so.

MR. SHOLL, referring to the item before the committee, "Governor's clerk, £40," said it appeared a very large increase for this officer, at one jump. He had not been in the service for many years, but, being one of the fortunate ones, he had been pushed up the ladder, rung after rung, over the head of other officers, who were in the service when this young gentleman was in long clothes. He thought it was time this sort of thing should be put an end to. It seemed to be the practice to make favorites of certain officers in the service, and especially the clerks in the Colonial Secretary's and the Governor's offices, who were pushed on over the heads of much older officers. While he had the honor of holding a seat in the House he should set his face against this favoritism in the public service. He moved that this item be reduced by one half.

MR. SCOTT moved that the item be struck out altogether.

MR. SHENTON said that when the Colonial Secretary brought it forward he mentioned that it was the intention of the Governor to dispense with his aide-de-camp. He would draw the attention of the committee to what happened on a former occasion, when the salary of one of the officers connected with the Governor's establishment was raised on the same plea, in Sir William Robinson's time, when the Governor dispensed with his aide-de-camp. But when the present Governor came, he brought his aide-de-camp with him, and the House had to vote his salary. In the same way, if they increased this clerk's salary, on the ground that there would be no actual increase of expenditure, as the Governor

proposed doing without an aide-de-camp, we might have a change of Governors, and His Excellency's successor might bring his own aide-de-camp; and, the House having once raised this clerk's salary, would have to keep it up.

MR. CROWTHER said he would join the hon. member for Perth in his amendment that the item be struck out altogether. The Colonial Secretary told them it was the intention of the Governor—and a very laudable intention, if it could be carried out, which he doubted—to do away with an aide-de-camp, and that it was proposed to raise this clerk's salary to prevent his going anywhere else,—in other words, to prevent his hankering after a better billet. But there was no guarantee that the next Governor might not bring a friend of his own for this office, and this young gentleman, having got his increase, would have to clear out to some other office. If any increase of salaries was going to be commenced on these Estimates, he should advocate these increases, not in the salaries of officers who were receiving comfortable pay, but in the salaries of those poor fellows who were simply existing—not living—on £100 or £120 a year. He knew himself of one officer who had been in the service about twenty years, and who was at this moment receiving the princely pay of £125 a year, for doing almost as much clerical work and a great deal more mechanical work than the officer they now proposed to give £300 to. He said nothing about the individual; he referred to the office. If the Colonial Secretary could guarantee them that the next Governor would do without an aide-de-camp, and would not bring his own clerk with him, he might then vote for this item; but, until he was assured on that point, he should oppose it. We had in the service of this colony men who were simply starving, after being in the public service nearly all their lives, and who were fit for nothing else now.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) pointed out that the salary proposed to be given to the clerk in the Governor's office would simply place him in the position of a chief clerk. He held a very responsible position, and, as the colony ad-

vanced, of course the business in the Governor's office was increasing annually, and it was most desirable, as he had already said, that the clerk in that office should be satisfied with his lot, and be content to remain there, without promotion. He did not know that he could urge anything further. It would be very inconvenient, especially in the case of a change of Governors, that there should be no one in the Governor's office conversant with the duties of the office, as this officer was. He should imagine that any new Governor coming here would be only too anxious to retain the services of such an officer.

MR. SHOLL understood the Colonial Secretary to say, when he first moved this item, that the Governor's aide-de-camp was going to leave, and that His Excellency was going to do without one. It appeared to him that, if the Governor could do without an aide-de-camp, the colony had been paying salary to an officer that was not required; and he did not see why, simply because the aide-de-camp was going to leave, this clerk should get £40 added to his salary, when there were other deserving officers who were receiving nothing like such a salary. To anyone who had watched how these appointments and promotions were made, it was positively sickening to see old and valuable public servants passed over, and gentlemen of this sort pitchforked over their head. He begged to withdraw his motion to reduce the item one-half, in favor of the amendment to strike it out altogether.

The amendment, upon being put, was carried, and the vote expunged.

Treasury Department: Clerk, Roebourne, £60:

MR. McRAE asked for some information with regard to this item.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said it was in consequence of a representation from the Resident Magistrate (Colonel Angelo), who required a second clerk, whose salary it was proposed should be £120 a year. It appeared the work was increasing, and that some further clerical assistance was necessary.

MR. MARMION: Why does it appear under the head of the "Treasury?"

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): Because he

will have to do all there is to be done in connection with the Treasury work up there. I do not mean to say that he will confine himself to that particular work, but it has been found necessary to increase the clerical staff.

MR. SHENTON: Was this second clerk applied for by the late Resident Magistrate or the present one?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I don't know that he was directly applied for by the late Magistrate, but the present Resident has represented the necessity of the appointment to the Government, and I think the question of increasing the clerical staff at Roebourne has been considered before now.

MR. McRAE said he knew something about this matter, and he thought this second clerk was unnecessary altogether, —in fact, he was sure he was quite unnecessary. The gentleman who was doing the work in the office had himself told him that one clerk was quite enough to do all the work, if he only received a fair salary. Two years ago this officer was in receipt of £160 a year, and he did all the work that was required in the Resident's office and attended to the post office as well; but when the telegraph was extended to Roebourne and the postal and telegraph work was combined, another officer was appointed to do the postal and telegraph work, and the clerk's salary was reduced to £135. Last year he was promised promotion and a rise, but he had not yet had it, and he noticed that it was proposed to increase his salary by £15 only. He had it on the best authority that the present clerk, if the Government would only keep faith with him and increase his salary to say £175, would be quite competent and prepared to do all that was required to be done in that office. He therefore saw no necessity for the appointment of this second clerk.

MR. SHENTON moved that the item be struck out.

MR. CROWTHER very much regretted to say that the appointment of this clerk was looked upon by the public generally, which included himself, as somewhat of a "job," and these little "jobs" were the bane of society. If a second clerk was really wanted, and the Colonial Secretary would give them some idea what there was for him to do, there would be

no demur to the appointment. There was no more liberal body, he believed, in the world than the Legislative Council of this colony—so long as it had its own way. He was sure in his own mind that this second clerk was not required because of the amount of work to be done; if he was wanted in consequence of the incompetency of the present clerk, let the Government provide a more capable clerk and pay him for his work.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) assured the hon. member that the proposal to give the Resident Magistrate an additional clerk was not a "job" at all. [Mr. CROWTHER: I did not say it was; I said that to most people, myself amongst them, it had the appearance of a "job."] This item was put down because it was considered that the Government Resident required an additional clerk. Of course it was perfectly competent for the House to strike it out, but it was not proper for any hon. member to make a statement that the appointment was a "job."

MR. GRANT said he believed it was the general feeling of the House that there was no necessity for such an appointment. This magistrate was always wanting something or other, and, if they gave him a second clerk now, he would want something else next session. He did not think that House would be inclined to make billets that would be nothing but sinecures. It was not these "curled darlings," these creatures who were the sucklings of the Government, that ought to get more pay, but those officers who had borne the heat and burden of the day in the public service. Some years ago, the late Mr. Sholl used to do the whole work himself, without a clerk at all, and do a great deal more than the Government Resident did now.

The motion to strike out the item was agreed to, and the vote passed.

Survey Department, £7,066 9s.:

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the first item "Inspector of Plans and Surveys, £20," was to increase the salary of the senior officer (Mr. Brooking) to £350, which he would have been entitled to if he had remained in the field, but he had come into the office at his (Mr. Forrest's) request. The second item,

£6,700 for surveys, was made up as follows: Central Districts, £1,000; Kimberley, £3,700; Gascoyne and Murchison, £2,000. The two last items—Kimberley and the Gascoyne and Murchison Surveys—had, he believed, been authorised by the Finance Committee, and the money was now being spent. The vote for the Central Districts was in order to enable the department to try and overtake the surveys in this part of the colony, which were considerably in arrear. The next item, "Engraving Geological Maps, £300," had also been approved by the Finance Committee. It was in order to get Mr. Hardman's maps engraved, which was done at Melbourne, and the expenditure would probably be recouped by the sale of these maps. The next item, "Gratuity to Mr. E. C. Dean, £25," had been put on the Estimates upon his recommendation, in order to recompense Mr. Dean for the trouble he had taken for a long number of years in training and teaching the junior draughtsmen. The last item, "Geological Survey, £21 9s." was the balance of Mr. Hardman's salary.

The vote was then agreed to.

Customs Department, £951 10s.:

MR. MARMION asked whether the item "Landing waiter and gauger, Derby, £100," was intended as an addition to the salary of the present officer.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said there was no officer there at present, but that one had been sent up, and that his salary would be £160 a year.

MR. MARMION: Is this to be the only officer there in connection with the Customs?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): Yes, at present.

MR. MARMION: Then I am very much afraid it will not be sufficient. There is a large business springing up at Derby in connection with the goldfields, and if we don't take care we shall lose a great deal more Customs revenue than would pay the salaries of more than one officer.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I may point out that in addition to this landing waiter, two water police constables have been sent up.

MR. MARMION: Has this officer had any experience in Customs work?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): Yes, he was trained at Fremantle. I believe he was there about a fortnight. He has been recommended by the Collector of Customs.

MR. SHOLL said it appeared to him this was another proof of how the natives of this colony—when he said natives he meant our colonial-born young men—were overlooked and shunted in favor of strangers. It was a strange thing that we should have to go all the way to Adelaide to get a landing waiter. There were plenty of young men in the colony quite as competent for the work. As to this officer having been recommended by the Collector of Customs, he did not suppose that the Collector of Customs knew anybody outside his own office.

MR. CROWTHER said there was a landing waiter at Geraldton, a son of the soil too, who had been in the service since 1877, and all he got was £85 a year. He thought it was a crying shame that experienced men in the service should be overlooked, and utter strangers, after a fortnight's training, appointed over their heads, at double the salary.

MR. MARMION thought it was a very serious question, the appointment of revenue officers at the port of Derby, where probably tens of thousands of pounds' worth of goods would be introduced during the next few months. He thought it was very unwise policy to be shorthanded as regards the Customs up there, and it was the duty of the Government to see not only that the service was not under-manned, but that competent and experienced officers should be sent up. He also thought there ought to be a landing waiter appointed for Cambridge Gulf.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said it was the intention of the Government to send a wharfinger to Cambridge Gulf as soon as the services of a competent officer could be secured.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it was proposed to work the Customs for a short time with the assistance of the staff belonging to the Public Works Department sent up.

MR. SHENTON said he understood the item "Extra labor on wharf, £200," was intended for Fremantle jetty. He hoped the Government would not lose sight of the necessity for doing something to improve the present system of jetty management, which not only brought discredit on the Government, but also disgrace upon the colony.

MR. LOTON asked the Colonial Secretary whether he thought this extra vote would be sufficient?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said he thought so. The Collector of Customs was their authority on the subject, and he seemed to consider that this would be adequate.

The vote was then passed.

Works and Railways Department, £5,611 12s:

MR. SHENTON asked how the work of the Department was carried on without the Accountant, who was representing the colony at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the work in the Accountant's absence was being done by the assistant accountant, and very well done too. The assistant got half the Accountant's pay and half of his own salary; and he seemed very well satisfied, and so was he (the Director).

The vote was then confirmed.

Postal and Telegraph Department, £914 10s.:

MR. MARMION called attention to the necessity of providing a telegraph messenger at the Fortescue station. He thought the work might be done by the native assistant.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the services of the lineman's native assistant might possibly be made available occasionally as a messenger; but it was doubtful.

The vote was then passed.

Land Titles Department, £130:

Agreed to, without discussion, the COLONIAL SECRETARY stating that the item had been sanctioned by the Finance Committee.

Medical Department, £2,194 10s.:

MR. SHENTON asked how it was that the Surgeon Superintendent of the Luna-

tic Asylum was to get an increase of salary, as here proposed?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said this officer was now to take the entire charge and responsibility of the whole Asylum. Before the transfer of the Convict Establishment the Asylum was under the control of the Comptroller of Convicts.

MR. LOTON: Is this increase, and also the £50 for the Health Officer, in addition to their present salaries? If so, I should simply like to remark that this in my opinion is a very inconvenient course to pursue, to say the least of it, to increase the salaries of public officers by a sort of side wind, through the Supplementary Estimates; and it is inconvenient for this reason: we have not before us the annual Estimates showing the salaries of these officers. It is in this way that abuses creep in. A march is very frequently stolen upon the members of this House, and votes in this way are obtained which, if we had all the facts before us, would not have been passed. Here we find a direct increase of salary to two public officers, and we do not know in any way that any additional duties are cast upon them. The practice is a bad one, a vicious one.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the present salary of the Health Officer was £50, and, in view of his increasing duties, it was proposed to increase it to £100. With regard to the Surgeon Superintendent he had already stated that, in consequence of the recent transfer of the Imperial Convict Establishment to the Colonial Government, the Lunatic Asylum was now placed entirely under the charge of this officer, who, in view of the additional responsibilities cast upon him, was to receive this additional pay. He might add that this officer had been receiving the greater portion of this from the Imperial Government.

MR. MARMION: Are the increases for the whole year?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): For the whole year as regards the Health Officer; and from the 1st April (the date of the transfer) as regards the Surgeon Superintendent.

MR. SCOTT: Do I understand that the £1,500 set down for the Lunatic

Asylum is simply for the maintenance of the institution on its present footing?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): That is so. It comes out of the £8,000 voted for the Convict Establishment last session, in view of the transfer.

MR. SCOTT expressed his regret that no provision was made to carry out the suggestion of the Surgeon Superintendent, that separate accommodation should be provided for the more dangerous patients.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said he had to move, by direction of the Governor, to add another item to the Medical Vote,—“Medical Officer, Guildford, £100.” Hon. members were aware that owing to the vote for this officer having been struck out last session there was now no salary attached to the office, and it was therefore necessary to vote this amount, so as to enable the Government to pay the officer in question.

MR. SCOTT: I shall object to that. This House, I believe, last session objected to this officer receiving any salary out of public funds, on account of his inefficiency and his deliberate attempt to evade his duty; and I am in a position to say now that he continues to evade his duties and to shirk his responsibilities. Therefore, I think I am quite justified in calling the attention of the House to the matter; and I take the whole responsibility upon my own shoulders when I state that I am personally aware that he shirks his responsibilities and is not fit to occupy the position of medical officer in any district.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): Will the hon. member be kind enough to mention what the duties are which this officer shirks. Are they duties in connection with his position as an officer of the Government?

MR. SCOTT: I hope this House will recognise the fact that although these medical officers are subsidised by the Government—inadequately subsidised I admit, but still they are subsidised, and this subsidy enables them to keep out other practitioners—I say I hope this House will recognise the fact that the object of voting this honorarium for these medical officers is as much with the

view of providing the settlers of the district with medical attendance as it is to attend upon Government patients. But I am in a position to say, and I state it here publicly, that this officer shirks his duty towards private patients; and I hope that the House, having once affirmed the principle that it is not desirable that any Government medical officer who refuses to attend private patients, when he is offered payment for doing so, should be subsidised out of public funds,—the House, having affirmed this principle, will I hope adhere to it, and will still decline to vote this officer's salary under the circumstances.

MR. CROWTHER: Will the Colonial Secretary tell us how many Government patients this officer has to attend to?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I cannot say the exact number; I suppose about a dozen. It is just a question whether we are not legally bound to pay him his salary. I am quite at one with the House as to the conduct of this officer. Undoubtedly these district medical officers are under a moral obligation to attend private patients within their district—that is my private opinion; and I cannot understand how any medical man could act as this officer appears to have acted in bringing down upon his shoulders the obloquy of his fellow-men.

MR. CROWTHER: Then why ask us to vote him £100 a year?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): It is just a question whether we are not legally bound to do so.

The item was struck out, and the original vote confirmed.

Harbor and Light Department, £1,160:

MR. SHENTON asked whether the Government had received any communication or information, or whether they had had under their consideration, the question of giving any gratuity to the officer who lately filled the position of harbor master at Fremantle (Mr. Forsyth)?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I don't know whether I am justified in answering that question.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: It is outside the question at present before the committee.

MR. SHENTON asked for some information as to the item "Contingencies."

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that out of the £700 asked for under the head of "Repair and purchase of boats, £700," about £400 was required for a lugger that came out from England, and there were some repairs connected with some boats at the North which had been damaged by some accident. The diving apparatus (£150) was for Fremantle.

The vote was then agreed to.

Judicial Department, £941 10s. :

MR. McRAE, referring to the item "Messenger and caretaker, Roebourne, £36," asked what this messenger and caretaker was for.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): For the courthouse.

MR. GRANT said the requirements of the new Resident Magistrate at Roebourne appeared to him to be really wonderful. Other magistrates up there had done without a messenger or a caretaker. It was very strange. The whole building was not worth £36. He moved that the item be struck out.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that there were caretakers or cleaners attached to every courthouse in the colony. Usually the constable or his wife looked after the building, but, whoever did so, would have to be paid. This vote was asked for on the recommendation of the Resident Magistrate.

MR. CROWTHER: I thought so.

The vote was struck out.

MR. MARMION, referring to the item "Inquest Expenses, £50," asked if anything was proposed to be done to provide better accommodation at Fremantle for holding *post mortem* examinations. The site of the present morgue was very inconvenient, and it was without any conveniences.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the matter was being attended to. The present building was being repaired, and he was in consultation with the local authorities as to a new building, and a sum would be placed on next year's Estimates for that purpose.

The vote was then put and passed.

Police Department, £10,761 14s. 3d. :

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) informed the committee that almost the whole of this amount had been already sanctioned by the Finance Committee. Amongst the item of contingencies there were certain additional votes required by the Superintendent of Police, the amounts voted last year not having proved sufficient; and provision had also been made for additional water police at Fremantle.

The vote was agreed to.

Rottneat Prison Department, £190 :

MR. GRANT asked whether the supplementary vote for provisions was in consequence of an increased number of prisoners?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): Yes; and most of them are from the North.

The vote was confirmed.

Printing Department, £1,130 :

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that he was instructed by His Excellency to add two items to this vote, being an addition of £30 to the salary of the principal compositor and of the clerk and reader. This was done on the recommendation of the Government Printer.

MR. MARMION asked for some information as to the item, "Extra labor, £930," which he understood was in addition to the £500 voted last session.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said he was assured by the Government Printer that the extra vote was necessary. The work in that printing office was something enormous; they had to work early and late, and everyone would admit that the work was very well done.

MR. MARMION said he was aware that it was a department that was remarkably well conducted, and that was the reason why he felt diffident in offering any opposition to all this increasing expenditure. At the same time the amount now expended in printing was becoming a very heavy one, and, in this matter, they were entirely in the hands of the Government Printer.

MR. GRANT said the vote for this department was increasing every year, and was a very serious item. Whether there was any necessity for all this in-

crease he did not know. Whatever was asked for, was usually granted.

The vote was then passed, with the two additional items.

Educational Department, £42:

Agreed to.

Registry Department, £100:

MR. GRANT asked for some information as to this item.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said this was the new appointment under the Patents Act. The salary attached to the office would be £250 a year. The holder of it was also to discharge all the duties formerly performed by the Registrar General.

Vote agreed to.

Poor Relief Department, £18; Government Storekeeper's Department, £60; Government Garden Department (for sundry improvements recommended by the committee of management), £100:

These votes were agreed to without discussion.

Volunteer Department, £127:

MR. MARMION having elicited that the item "Band Allowance, £15," was for an increase in the salary of Bandmaster Bryan, M.R.V., expressed a hope that the services of the Fremantle bandmaster would also receive recognition.

MR. PEARSE said this officer was the senior bandmaster in the service, and he ought to be much better paid than he now was. He was a most efficient officer.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the claims of the officer in question would be considered when the annual Estimates for next year were prepared.

The vote was then put and passed.

Works and Buildings, £7,950:

MR. MARMION asked if the item "Supreme Courthouse, £300," was towards building a new courthouse?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the money was wanted to carry out some improvements urgently required in the present building, so as to make the Judges and the juries a little more comfortable.

MR. PARKER thought it was simply throwing money away to attempt to improve the present building, which must sooner or later come down to make room for other improvements.

MR. MARMION asked for some information as to the item "Geraldton hospital, £3,000."

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that several designs had been made in order to make the present unsightly building into something decent-looking, and to give some improved accommodation, but the funds which had been voted for the purpose had proved insufficient. This amount was placed on these Estimates for the completion of the hospital, and, of this sum, £1,200 was to replace the vote lapsed from last year, and a further sum of £1,800 was required. His own impression was that it would be far better to pull down the present unsightly structure, and build two or three cottage hospitals, which, he believed, would be the cheapest in the end.

MR. BURGESS said no doubt the present building was a disgrace to the place, and, if the Director of Public Works could see his way clear to pull it down, and build one or two cottage hospitals, it would be a decided improvement.

MR. SCOTT: What would be the probable cost of erecting these cottage hospitals?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) believed it could be done for the amount now on the Estimates.

MR. SCOTT said it must be admitted that the necessity for improved hospital accommodation at Geraldton was a long-felt want, and he would certainly suggest that the Director of Public Works should carry out his idea of cottage hospitals.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he was glad to hear the hon. member say so. The only thing was, it would be a pity to pull down the present building. A little more than the amount now asked for might perhaps be required, but it certainly would be a great improvement.

MR. MARMION said there must have been a very large amount of money expended on the present building, yet it now turned out to be utterly unsuited for the purpose. If it was not likely that it could be made of some use, to meet the requirements of the district, he saw no good in expending another £3,000 upon it. He should imagine that £3,000

would build two very nice cottage hospitals.

MR. CROWTHER said this hospital at Geraldton was, he believed, the most ill-used public building that the colony possessed. When it was first proposed, the amount of money set down for it was so cut down by that House that at last it became impossible to do anything with it. Afterwards something more was added to it, but some of that money again was appropriated for something else—to improve the doctor's quarters. The building was an eyesore and a disgrace, and, if the Director of Public Works thought he could do nothing with it, the best thing that the hon. gentleman could do was to let them have some decent cottage hospitals.

MR. McRAE, referring to the item, "Albany Sand Patch, £400," asked if they ever were going to be done with this work. They had been told during the last three sessions that no more money would be wanted to complete the work; yet, as soon as another session came round, the item re-appeared on the Estimates.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said they had expended the whole of the vote made last session, and it was now found that about £270 would be required for bushing the place, so as to finish it. He thought that a most satisfactory job had been made of it. The reason why £400 was asked for was because a sum of £150 out of last year's vote had, through inadvertence on the part of the accountant, been allowed to lapse. The Finance Committee re-voted that amount to enable the work to be proceeded with, but they refused to sanction any further expenditure, in view of the near approach of the session. He believed the amount now required would finish it altogether, and that next year would prove the truth of what he said, that not another penny would be wanted to complete the job.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that the Finance Committee had sanctioned the greater portion of the vote asked for on these Estimates for "Sundry works at Derby and Wyndham;" but, if the committee wished for any detailed information on the subject, no doubt the

Director of Public Works would be happy to furnish it.

MR. GRANT said it was all very well to say that the Finance Committee had sanctioned this large expenditure; but that House was above the Finance Committee, and it was only right that they should have some further information about these works, which were to cost over £20,000.

MR. SHENTON said, although he was a member of the Finance Committee, he thought that this committee was simply appointed to advise the Government in the matter of any unforeseen expenditure being required. It did not release the Government from its responsibility to that House, and he thought the House was fully entitled to any explanation it might wish as to the action of the Finance Committee.

Progress was then reported, and leave given the committee to sit again another day for the further consideration of this item.

OPIUM DUTY BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 20th July, 1886.

Reduction of the Mail Coach fare between Perth and Pinjarrah—Ticks in Sheep—Gratuity to Mrs. Slade—Sharks Bay Pearl Shell Fishery Bill: third reading—Chinese Immigration Bill: third reading—Supplementary Estimates, 1886: further consideration of—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

REDUCTION OF MAIL COACH FARE BETWEEN PERTH AND PINJARRAH.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT, in accordance with notice, moved "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency