

The **SURVEYOR GENERAL** (Hon. M. Fraser) seconded and supported the motion.

The **ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. R. J. Walcott) moved that a committee, consisting of the Hon. the Surveyor General, Mr. Shenton, and Mr. Carr, be appointed to report on the subject.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 14th July, 1871.

Standing Orders—Importation of Flour and Wheat—Circular Warrants—Trespass by Live Stock—Municipal By-laws—Publican's License at Port Walcott—Library: select committee—Dangerous Goods Bill: second reading—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: second reading—Exportation of Arms and Munitions of War Bill: second reading—Maintenance of Bastard Children Bill: second reading—Powers to Grant Commissions given to Chief Justice Bill: second reading—Naturalization of Aliens Bill: second reading—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: in committee—Dangerous Goods Bill: in committee—Exportation of Arms and Munitions of War Bill: in committee—Maintenance of Bastard Children Bill: in committee—Powers to Grant Commissions given to Chief Justice Bill: in committee—Naturalization of Aliens Bill: in committee—Survey Department Re-organization: in committee.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at 4 p.m.

PRAYERS.

The Minutes were read and confirmed.

STANDING ORDERS.

The **SPEAKER** reported to the Council that the substituted Standing Order adopted by the House on the 12th instant had been submitted to His Excellency the Governor, and that he had been pleased to approve the same.

IMPORTATION OF FLOUR AND WHEAT.

Mr. **STEERE**, in accordance with notice, moved for a return of the quantity of flour and wheat that had been imported into the colony during each of the last four years, and for the first six months of this year.

He was informed that it was impracticable to produce a return exactly in that form, inasmuch as the invoices are made out for flour and meal, and corn and other grain together.

Question put and passed.

CIRCULAR WARRANTS.

Mr. **STEERE**, in accordance with notice, asked the Attorney General whether his attention had been called to the case of a man

who was arrested on a circular warrant at Fremantle, and discharged in consequence of its informality by the Resident Magistrate; and whether it was his intention to take any steps to obviate such an uncertain state of the present practice of issuing circular warrants.

The **ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. R. J. Walcott) replied that until the notice of motion had been given by the hon. member his attention had not been called to the case referred to. Further, he did not think that any steps should be taken, but he had drawn the attention of the Inspector of Police to the matter, and he did not think it would occur again.

TRESPASS BY LIVE STOCK.

Mr. **STEERE**, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to trespass by live stock.

The **COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. F. P. Barlee) replied that it was not the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill. A select committee of the late session of the Council advised that a select committee should be appointed during the current session to amend and consolidate the Branding and Trespass Ordinances.

MUNICIPAL BY-LAWS.

Mr. **STEERE**, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether the municipal by-laws which had been sanctioned by the Executive, and which permit of a license being levied on all carriages which are kept in the towns for a period longer than seven days, were applicable to the colonists generally, or only to persons resident in such towns.

The **COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. F. P. Barlee) replied that the by-laws referred to could merely carry out the clauses of the Acts to which they bear reference. He said the tax can only be levied on persons residing within the jurisdiction of the several towns in which they live, and not on visitors to such towns.

PUBLICAN'S LICENSE AT PORT WALCOTT.

Mr. **LOGUE**, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether there was any objection on the part of the Executive to grant a publican's license at Port Walcott on the north-west coast, and if, so, what was the objection. Also, if any application for such license had been made and refused, on what grounds had it been refused.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) replied that the Government had no objection whatever. The matter rested solely with the Bench of Magistrates. Applications had been made and the Government had declined to interfere.

LIBRARY.

Select Committee.

Mr. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, moved that a select committee of the Council be appointed to report on the advisability of forming a Library in connection with the House; and that such committee be the Hon. the Attorney General, the Hon. the Surveyor General, Mr. Carr, Mr. Newman, and the Mover.

Question put and passed.

DANGEROUS GOODS BILL.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that a Bill for the carriage and safe-keeping of explosives and dangerous goods be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time.

CONFIRMATION OF EXPENDITURE BILL.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in moving the second reading, said that the Bill was to confirm the expenditure for the services of the year 1870 beyond the grant for that year. He went on to say that doubtless some observations would be expected from him with regard to the excess of the expenditure over the estimated amount. He candidly admitted that the excess was large, but he trusted that he would be able to explain to the entire satisfaction of the House how that excess had occurred. It would be in the recollection of hon. members that on the occasion of his submitting his financial statement at the sitting of the Council in January last, he then explained, and, he hoped, satisfactorily, that it was impossible to include in that statement the whole financial transactions of the year, inasmuch as the accounts for the year could not be finally made up till the particulars of the Crown Agents' and other accounts had been received. Indeed, the balance sheet of the former up to the end of December of last year, was not received until April of the current year; it was, therefore, impracticable to have embodied those accounts in the financial statement made in

January. With regard to the excess of expenditure, he would ask the attention of the House for a little while, and trusted that hon. members would withhold their strictures until he had explained how the excess had accrued, and they were in possession of reliable information upon the subject. It was satisfactory for him to be able to state, and, doubtless, it would be equally satisfactory to the House to learn, that the excess had arisen from no extravagance on the part of the Government, but that it was caused by unforeseen expenses which could not possibly have been obviated. It must be borne in mind that the Estimates for 1870 were passed in the middle of 1869, during an inter-regnum and at a Council especially summoned for that purpose. The present Governor arrived towards the end of that year, and from that time until early this year no Legislative Council was in existence to refer financial matters to. True, there had been a short session in 1870, for the purpose of adopting the present constitutional form of Government, beyond which no other business was transacted. The estimated expenditure for the present year, 1870, was £101,294, which was granted for, and applied to, the services of that year, but the actual revenue fell off, £3,000, while the expenditure increased by £12,000; at all events, the difference between the expenditure asked for and granted, and the expenditure actually incurred was £14,914 7s. 5d., but the Bill before the House asked for £15,496 15s. 11d., which was the amount of the actual overdraft on the various items enumerated in the Bill. There was, however, an under-draft on various items amounting to £4,422. To avoid the necessity of re-summoning the Legislative Council, it would be remembered the sum of £5,000, in excess of the estimated expenditure was voted for contingencies, and if that sum were added to the actual estimated expenditure (£101,294), it would leave £6,752 as the excess expended. This had been expended, partly in accordance with the votes of the Council, and, in part, in matters which could not possibly have been avoided. The first item, under the head of Establishments—Colonial Secretary, £521 17s.—had been expended entirely in the Printing Department connected with the Council, in the purchase of type, paper, and other materials necessary to place the printing establishment on an efficient footing. The next item—Harbour Master, £80 14s. 7d.—was incurred consequent upon the separation of the two offices of Superintendent of Rottnest and pilot, and the sum of £121 8s. 11d., Judicial Establishment, was expended in payment of a clerk to the Registrar of the Court, who, from indisposition, was unable to

perform the functions of his office. The following item, Rottneft, £169 4s. 9d., was caused by the increase of expense in procuring fresh water for the military, and certain items expended on the saltworks, which latter, however, would be refunded, inasmuch as those works were reproductive. The expenditure of the small sum of £16 8s. 4d., under the head of "Aborigines," was in the payment of an officer connected with the native establishment at Albany. With regard to the first item, exclusive of establishments, pensions, gratuities, etc., £10 0s. 1d.—that was expended in connection with exploration, and the next sum, £21 1s. 8d. revenue services, was necessitated in consequence of it being found necessary to employ supernumerary watchmen on board vessels in the harbor. The item Charitable Allowances, £1,209 12s. 7d. was expended purely in relieving distress and pauperism, which, he was sorry to observe, had considerably multiplied, and was still on the increase; and the item Hospitals, £24 17s. 1d. was also expended in the succor of the large and increasing number of applicants for sick relief. The sum of £1,197 10s. 9d., Police, was incurred by the necessity of supplying forage to the horses of that department, to reduce which would have considerably affected the efficiency of the service. The item for police forage was under-estimated by £1,200 for the year 1870, and the Chairman of Committees would not fail to recollect that he so stated when the Estimates for that year were under consideration, but that he was overruled. The following sum of £251 0s. 6d., expended in connection with Rottneft Native Penal Farm, was caused by the increased number of Aboriginal prisoners, and the item, Transport, £386 14s., was incurred in defraying the expenses of public officers arriving from England, among whom were the Attorney General and three clergymen.

Mr. STEERE: In connection with this item, I have to ask the hon. gentleman, what action will be taken by the Government, with regard to the circular despatch from the Secretary of State relative to passage allowances to colonies of persons appointed in England?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) replied that it was his intention to bring the question before the House during the session. The next item was, Conveyance of Mails, £672 7s. 1d., expenses unavoidably incurred in connection with the postal service, consequent upon the fluctuation in the rate of contract prices, and the extra charges for the Imperial Mail Service, which were again, this year, on the increase. With reference to the sum of £2,999 12s. 10d. expended on works

and buildings, £1,000 incurred in the erection of additional police stations, and further expenses caused by keeping others in repair, would be repaid to the colony. £1,800, was expended in the completion of the town hall, and £1,100 in building the Council Chamber. Of the £2,508 1s. 4d. under the head of Roads and Bridges, a sum of £1,054 was incurred in the purchase and importation of a stone-crusher, and the remainder was expended in the payment of arrears due upon tenders for work in operation, prior to the grants to road boards, the particulars of which could be ascertained by reference to the Blue Book. Of the next item, £3,947 9s. 8d., miscellaneous, the first portion, £2,337 17s. 9d., was expended on the sandhills at Geraldton, £1,500 of which was credited to the colony as a payment for seed wheat advanced to settlers, £666 in connection with the expedition to Port Eucla, and various sums were expended upon various matters relating to the Crown Agents, all of which would be particularized when those accounts were placed on the table. £100 of the same item was expended in the erection of a parsonage at Guildford—an expenditure which resulted in the annual saving of £25. The sum of £13 16s. 7d., Aborigines, was spent consequent upon the great increase in the number of natives, throughout the various districts of the colony, who applied for Government aid and relief. The next item, Returns, £1,118 8s. 4d., was a subject over which the House could exercise no control whatever, as it arose principally from refund of duties to the Commissariat for stores purchased in the market for Imperial services, and returns of fines imposed under the Scab Act, made under the Governor's authority; and the following and last item, Defalcations at Geraldton, was, he was sorry to state, dishonoured cheques in connection with the late Commissioner of Revenue. He had now gone through every item, *seriatim*, and he trusted that the House would agree that no unnecessary or lavish expenditure had been incurred. Not one item, which had not been unavoidably essential to the exigencies of public service, could be pointed out, and upon that simple fact he based his argument. It would therefore have been useless to have summoned the Legislative Council to sanction the expenditure of sums which they could not possibly have avoided, and His Excellency, with the advice of his Executive, had sanctioned the disbursement of the sums which he had enumerated. With these few observations he would leave the Bill in the hands of the House.

The SPEAKER said that, in the full hope that such a Bill would never again be brought

before the House, he would on this occasion vote for the second reading of that under consideration. The only legitimate excuse for the necessity of introducing it at all, was the non-existence of a Council to sanction the expenditure which it was now sought to confirm. £3,000 was ample margin to place in the power of the Executive.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) feared that so long as we were mortals, the hon. gentleman's hopes would not be realized. Unforeseen expenditure must, of necessity, always occur. Supposing, for mere illustration, that during the recess a fatal epidemic, such as the cholera, were to break out, and it became necessary for the Government to hire buildings for hospitals, and nurses to attend the sick, would hon. members say that the Government should not incur expenditure for that purpose?

The SPEAKER said the cholera had not broken out on this occasion, and he considered that above all other things the Council should be jealous of its control over the expenditure of public money.

Mr. BROWN considered that the real question for consideration was whether the expenses incurred were absolutely necessary, and if so, whether the money was economically spent. He thought this had been satisfactorily demonstrated, and that the Government was entitled to commendation rather than strictures, for the course it had pursued in avoiding a deadlock.

Mr. STEERE said he hoped and believed that this would be the last Bill of the kind—a Bill wherein the Council was called upon to confirm expenditure for public services beyond the actual amount which the House had voted for that purpose—against which he would be called upon to raise his voice. He was sorry that such a Bill was necessary now, and the explanation of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary was not entirely satisfactory. It was quite true that no Council had existed for a time to which the Governor could apply, but this was only for a very brief period, and when the Council was summoned in 1870 for the purpose of adopting a representative form of Government, there was no reason whatever why the question of public expenditure should not have been introduced. The hon. gentleman had endeavored to impress upon the House that all the items which he has quoted were unavoidable expenditure, and such that hon. members would of necessity have sanctioned. He differed from that opinion, and so far as he was concerned, he could not concur in such lavish unauthorized expenditure of public money. If the hon. gentleman based his

argument in favor of the course adopted by the Government in these matters upon the fact of the unavoidability of such expenditure, why did he not extend his argument to the matter of official salaries, which, he presumed, were necessary and unavoidable? He maintained, and ever would contend, that the disbursement of the public money should be entirely under the control of the representatives of that public, and that not a farthing should be expended by the Executive without their sanction. As, however, he believed that such a Bill as the present one would never again be submitted for their approval, he was not so childish as to protest against what could not be undone.

Mr. LOGUE expressed his entire dissent with the explanation offered by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. As one of the members of that House, residing in one of the most remote districts of the colony, he had no hesitation in saying that sooner than one shilling of the public funds should be expended without the sanction of the Legislative Council, he would at any time, and at any season, overcome all obstacles and comply with the paramount call of duty by giving his attendance in that House. He believed that every hon. member would do likewise. During the last session, a sum of £3,000 in excess of the estimated expenditure for the year was voted by the Council for unforeseen contingencies, and, in a small colony like ours, he saw no reason why such a sum should not suffice to meet all contingencies. If those who were entrusted with the preparation of the Estimates could not supply the Council with proper information as to the approximate amount that would be required to carry on the Public Service, the sooner the colony obtained some one who could perform such a duty the better. (Hear, hear; and laughter from the official bench.)

After some observations from Mr. NEWMAN, the Bill was read a second time.

EXPORTATION OF ARMS AND MUNITIONS OF WAR BILL.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in moving the second reading, said that it was a Bill which was to empower the Governor, or officer administering the Government, in cases of emergency, to prohibit by proclamation, the export of arms and munitions of war.

The Bill was read a second time.

MAINTENANCE OF BASTARD CHILDREN BILL.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in moving the second reading, stated that the Bill was to make further provision for the maintenance of bastard children by their putative fathers.

The Bill was read a second time.

POWERS TO GRANT COMMISSIONS GIVEN TO CHIEF JUSTICE BILL.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time.

NATURALIZATION OF ALIENS BILL.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time.

CONFIRMATION OF EXPENDITURE BILL.

In Committee.

After some discussion in Committee, the Bill was agreed to, without amendment.

DANGEROUS GOODS BILL.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 14 agreed to.

Clause 15: Prohibition of sale of petroleum, or kerosene, unless bottle or vessel containing the same be marked—"Dangerous: no light to be brought near"—

Mr. NEWMAN asked whether, within the meaning of the Bill "petroleum" and "kerosene" were convertible terms.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) replied that petroleum literally signified rock oil, and that kerosene being the product of such oil, the terms must be held to be synonymous for the purpose of the Act.

Mr. NEWMAN pointed out the utter impossibility of determining whether imported kerosene was of the temperature prescribed in clause 2. He believed it gave off an inflammable vapour at a temperature of about 50 degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer, which was 50 degrees less than that of the bituminous substances prohibited by the interpretation of the Bill: He deemed it very

necessary that some provisions should be made so that importers might not ignorantly transgress the law in this respect.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said that importers should be very careful to instruct their consignees as to the provisions of the Act relative to the degree of temperature which rendered the consignor amenable.

Mr. MARMION urged the necessity of providing a magazine, or some other building for the proper storage of kerosene in bulk, and requested to know, if a license grantable under the Act was withheld by the local authorities from any large holder of kerosene, what course was to be pursued by the importer with regard to it.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott): Sink it, or otherwise immediately dispose of it by exportation.

Mr. GULL, Mr. DRUMMOND, the SPEAKER, and Mr. SHENTON thought it necessary that the Government should make some provisions for the storage of large quantities of kerosene.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) concurred in the desirability of providing buildings where specially dangerous goods within the meaning of the Act could be stored; but as very small buildings would suffice in most cases, he thought the question was one for private interference.

Mr. NEWMAN contended that to render it imperative to attach a label to that effect upon every single bottle of kerosene sold would interfere materially with the trade. The object of the Bill was to provide for the safety of the public, and not of private individuals. The sale of a bottle of kerosene would not imperil the public, and he would move that the clause be struck out.

Mr. SHENTON seconded the amendment, which was agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

EXPORTATION OF ARMS AND MUNITIONS OF WAR BILL.

In Committee.

After some discussion in Committee, the Bill was agreed to, with amendments.

MAINTENANCE OF BASTARD CHILDREN BILL.

In Committee.

After some discussion in Committee, the Bill was agreed to, with some unimportant amendments.

POWERS TO GRANT COMMISSIONS GIVEN TO CHIEF JUSTICE BILL.

In Committee.

The Bill passed through Committee, without discussion.

NATURALIZATION OF ALIENS BILL.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 7 agreed to.

Clause 8: Alien to take oath before the Chief Justice—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved, as an amendment, that the Resident Magistrates in remote districts be empowered to administer the oath to be subscribed by a memorialist.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Clause 10: Fees payable—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) proposed that the fee payable in respect of the several proceedings prescribed by the Act, should be £1 in lieu of £5. He was happy to say that ere long he hoped to see a great number of foreigners in the colony, engaged in various industries, and, doubtless, many of them would be desirous of availing themselves of the provisions of this Act. He thought a fee of £1 would be ample.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11: Aliens previously naturalized may apply for certificate—

Mr. LOGUE suggested the insertion of the words "without additional fee."

After a few words from the Attorney General, the amendment was agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

The remaining clauses were agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT RE- ORGANIZATION.

Mr. SHENTON moved that the memorandum printed and placed in the hands of hon. members relative to the re-organization of the Survey Department be now taken into consideration.

Question put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) rose and said that the question of the re-organization of the Survey Department was one that had been for a long time under the

consideration of the Council with the view of effecting some reductions in the departmental staff, and a suggestion was adopted at the last session of Council that the Surveyor General should, during the interval that elapsed between that session and the present one, apply himself to the consideration of the alterations he deemed necessary with the view of placing the department on a more satisfactory footing. A short time ago that hon. gentleman submitted his scheme for the re-organization of the department for the consideration of His Excellency. It then became a question with the Government in what manner the memorandum should be submitted to the Legislature for adoption, and it was determined that it should be so on the clear understanding that the legitimate claims of those officers whose services it was proposed to dispense with should be respected. He quite concurred with what had fallen from the hon. member for Wellington on a former occasion, when the Survey Department was under the consideration of the House, to the effect that the officers of that department are simply Colonial officers; but still it must be distinctly understood that they were paid out of funds accruing from a source over which the Council had no power, and which actually belonged to the Imperial Government. That Government declined to give up its authority over the Crown lands of the colony, but the intention was to remove the revenue accruing from those lands from the supervision of the Council. With regard to the expenditure of the department, the Surveyor General proposed to reduce the departmental staff very considerably, and then came the question of compensation to the officers whose services it was proposed to dispense with. There were five of them who had been employed in the service for a considerable time, and two for a shorter period. It was determined that they should receive retiring allowances, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Imperial Act, on their average salaries during the past three years; six years would be added to their actual service as compensation for loss of office, and that it should be optional with the parties removed to receive pensions so calculated, or a commutation of the same, calculated at five year's purchase. This, he considered, a very moderate sale. The officers who were not included in the staff proposed to be retained had been communicated with, and they were satisfied with the proposed arrangement. Two of them (Messrs. Loftie and Phelps) proposed to take their pensions, and the remaining number (Messrs. Carey, Quin, Roe, Forrest, and C. Dean) had decided to accept gratuities. The terms having been arranged upon which

the Government were prepared to carry out these suggestions of the Surveyor General, it now remained for the Council to adopt or reject the proposed plan of re-organization.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) urged the necessity of the Council, in considering his scheme, to meet him on fair grounds, and any suggestion it might propose he would be happy to adopt. He need not state that it had been much to his regret, personally and individually, to have to break down an established institution of the colony, but it was a matter of stern necessity, and it had been forced upon him. As his memoranda were in the hands of hon. members, he would not detain the House with any further observations, beyond expressing his anxiety to afford every explanation within his power in support of what was contained therein.

Mr. STEERE moved that the House should resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, for the purpose of fully discussing the principles of the proposed scheme.

Question put and passed.

In Committee.

Mr. SHENTON asked for an explanation as to the sum of £3,500, for contingencies, placed in the Estimates of the sum required in order to carry on the work in the Survey Department during the next ensuing financial year.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) said that sum included the cost of general surveys, survey labor, camp equipment, and incidental expenses, and it was the amount intended to be appropriated during the year 1871, in the event of his scheme being carried out.

Mr. NEWMAN enquired under what regulations of the Colonial Service the computation of retiring allowances and pensions had been calculated.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) replied that they were computed under the Imperial Superannuation Act, which contemplated compensation to a far greater extent than was here proposed to be given, but left each case to be dealt with on its merits. The majority of the officers whose services it was proposed to dispense with had arrived here from England, appointed to permanent offices, and he looked upon it as a matter of great hardship that, with little or no notice, their appointments should be taken from them. It was, however, intended to reduce the staff to as small a number as it would be possible to carry on the work of the department efficiently. In reply to another question from Mr. Newman, it was elicited that these

officers, when superannuated, would be placed on the same footing as other surveyors who might arrive in the colony at any future time, with regard to their employment on the contract work of the department, but their pensions would be graduated in accordance with the scale of remuneration which they received.

Mr. DRUMMOND asked whether, with the reduced staff, and at the estimated sum of £5,950, the work of the department, which was understood to be considerably in arrear, could be efficiently carried on.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that we would have to cut our coat according to our cloth. If the sum which he estimated as necessary to carry on the work were voted he would pledge himself to do the best within his power to bring up all arrears of work; but, he might inform the House, that there were 10,000 acres of fee simple land, and 70,000 acres of land adapted for tillage leases, to be eventually surveyed.

Mr. LOGUE feared that the officers whose services it was proposed to dispense with would leave the colony, and that the work of the department would not be efficiently carried out, unless sufficient inducements were offered to them to remain. He disclaimed any intention of appearing to put any obstacles in the way of the satisfactory re-organization of the department under review, but he thought the scheme possessed some objectionable features.

Mr. GULL also deprecated any attempt to interfere with the solution of the question before the House, but thought it was premature to go into the consideration of so important a subject until hon. members had had further opportunity of studying the proposed scheme.

Mr. LOGUE asked the Hon. the Surveyor General what would be the probable cost of introducing to this colony the photo-lithographic process, which he understood had been very successfully worked both in Victoria and South Australia, for a considerable period.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that he much wished to introduce the process alluded to, for the purpose of multiplying plans for the public. The cost of purchase and other expenses would be about £500.

A motion to report progress, on the ground that more time was required for the consideration of the scheme, was negatived.

After some further observations from Mr. NEWMAN, Mr. DRUMMOND, Mr. MARMION, and Mr. BROWN,

Mr. SHENTON moved that the proposed plan for the re-organization of the Survey Department be adopted.

Mr. STEERE seconded the motion.

Mr. LOGUE and Mr. GULL opposed it, on the ground that the subject demanded further consideration.

On the motion of Mr. DRUMMOND, progress was eventually reported, and leave obtained to sit again on Monday.

The Council adjourned at 10.45 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 17th July, 1871.

Publicans' Petition—Rockingham Timber Company Petition—Refreshment Room: committee report—Exploration Eastward of Hampton Plains: in committee—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: third reading—Survey Department Re-organization: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

The Minutes were read and confirmed.

PUBLICANS' PETITION.

Mr. STEERE presented a petition from the Licensed Victuallers Association praying that the consideration of the Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the licensing of public houses and the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors be postponed.

The memorial was received and ordered to be read.

ROCKINGHAM TIMBER COMPANY PETITION.

Mr. NEWMAN presented a petition from the Rockingham Timber Company praying for a remission of the import duty upon their machinery, on the ground that no such charge was in existence, or anticipated, at the time the concessions were made to them by the Government; but as the memorial contained no signature, it was declared to be informal.

REFRESHMENT ROOM.

Committee Report.

Mr. SHENTON brought up the report and moved that it be read.

Question put and passed.

The report was read.

Mr. STEERE moved that the report be adopted.

Question put and passed.

EXPLORATION EASTWARD OF HAMPTON PLAINS.

Mr. DRUMMOND, in accordance with notice, moved that the Council do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the following resolution:—

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, requesting that he will sanction the expenditure of a sum not exceeding £200, for the purpose of exploring, during the present exceptionally favorable season, the country to the eastward of the Hampton Plains.

The motion being agreed to, the Speaker left the Chair.

In Committee.

Mr. DRUMMOND rose and said that the downfall of rain with which the eastern districts of the colony had been blessed this season, rendered it one of the most favorable that had been known for many years for the purpose of exploration, and the settlers of the York and the contiguous districts were desirous to avail themselves of the opportunity. Fresh runs were much needed by the sheep owners, resident in those districts, and they were prepared to do all within their power to render an expedition into the interior successful. There was a general impression that an abundance of excellent land suitable for pasturage was to be found to the eastward of Hampton Plains, and at the urgent request of a large and influential number of sheep and flock-owners he had been induced to submit the resolution which stood in his name for the consideration of the House. He trusted it would meet with general approval.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) in seconding the motion, said that he had himself some time ago, proposed to His Excellency that bonuses be offered for the discovery of fresh springs in the settled eastern districts of the colony. He generally approved of the motion of the hon. member for Toodyay.

Mr. MONGER supported the resolution, and fully concurred in the expression of opinion that the present season was an unusually favorable one for the object in view. He trusted that no opposition would be offered to the motion before the House, and expressed his conviction that the result anticipated would be realized.

Mr. BROWN resisted the motion, on the ground that it was intended to benefit one section of the community only, namely, the squatting interest.