

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Thursday, 30th July, 1885.*

The Agreement with Sir John Coode—Excess Bill, 1884: in committee—Dog Act Amendment Bill: referred to select committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

## THE AGREEMENT WITH SIR JOHN COODE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in reply to Mr. Grant, said there would be no objection to laying on the table of the House, for the information of hon. members, a copy of the agreement made with Sir John Coode under which he had come out to this colony, and that as soon as a copy of the agreement was made out it would be furnished.

## EXCESS BILL, 1884.

On the order of the day for the consideration of this bill in committee,

MR. BROWN said it would be ungracious on his part to object in any way to the House going into committee, seeing the very small amount of over-expenditure which the bill represented. Nor did he intend to oppose the motion. He simply rose to suggest that, in future, instead of having the Minute Book of the Finance Committee placed on the table at the moment they were asked to go into committee upon the Excess Bill, it would be as well if the book were laid on the table of the House some time previously, so that hon. members might have an opportunity of acquainting themselves with what had been done by the Finance Committee in the way of sanctioning any over-expenditure.

The House then resolved itself into committee, and the bill was agreed to without comment or discussion.

Bill reported.

## DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of this bill.

MR. WITTENOOM said he proposed to repeal the 17th clause of the present Dog Act, and to move the following new

clause in lieu of it, to stand as clause 4 in the bill now before the committee:—  
 "It shall not be lawful for any aboriginal native other than an adult male to register or keep any dog, nor for any such male aboriginal to keep more than 2 dogs, whether registered or otherwise; and it shall be lawful for any person to lay a complaint before any Justice of the Peace to the effect that any aboriginal native has in his possession, charge, or control a greater number of dogs than by the provisions of this Act he is empowered to keep, and upon proof of the fact to the satisfaction of such or any other Justice or Justices of the Peace before whom the complaint may be tried to order that the number of dogs kept by such aboriginal native in excess to the number he is by law allowed to keep be destroyed. Provided that it shall be lawful for any police constable to destroy all dogs above the age of 3 months found in the possession, charge, or control of any aboriginal native which by law he is not empowered to keep." The hon. member said the object of this new clause was simply to put a stop to a great nuisance which prevailed at present, owing to natives roaming about the country with large packs of dogs, which, as every country member was well aware, destroyed a great number of sheep and did other damage. The natives when caught generally denied the ownership of these dogs, and it was almost impossible to prove their ownership. The Act at present in force allowed every native—man, woman, and child—to keep two unregistered dogs and as many registered dogs as they chose to pay a license for, which, as he had already said, was a downright nuisance. He did not wish to deprive adult male natives from keeping two dogs to enable them to procure a means of subsistence, which he thought was all that was required.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) questioned whether it would not be undue hardship upon natives to prevent them from registering as many dogs as they pleased, so long as they paid the license fee in respect of such dogs. He did not see how they could make a distinction between the blacks and the whites, so long as the registration fee was paid. He was with the hon.

member otherwise; for he thought it was desirable to limit the possession by natives of unregistered dogs.

MR. STEERE said he agreed to a certain extent with what had fallen from the Colonial Secretary, that it would be rather an interference with the liberty of the subject to prevent a native registering his dogs. At the same time he would be inclined to go further than the hon. member for Geraldton. He would not let a native keep an unregistered dog at all; but he would allow him to register two dogs without payment of any fee, simply in order to enable the police to identify such dogs. If a native wanted to keep more dogs than these two, he should be made to pay the usual license fee in respect of such additional dogs.

MR. MARMION thought it would be unwise to alter the existing Act in the direction contemplated by this new clause. The Act had received the greatest attention when it passed through committee two years ago, and this question of natives and their dogs was discussed most thoroughly. If the suggestion now made by the hon. member Mr. Steere had been put forward when the Act was then amended, he thought he should have been inclined to accept it, for it appeared to him to be one that had much to commend it; but he hardly thought it was worth while altering the Act for the purpose of introducing the amendment.

MR. WITTENOOM said, as to its being any undue hardship to limit the number of registered dogs which a native might keep, when no limit was placed on the number of registered dogs which a white man might keep, he would point out that these natives had no settled place of abode nor visible means of subsistence, and it was obvious that their dogs, registered or unregistered, must be fed at somebody's expense. In South Australia, the Act now in force allowed two dogs for every aboriginal native. He rather approved, however, of the suggestion put forward by the hon. member Mr. Steere.

MR. SHENTON said no doubt it was desirable to do something to limit the number of dogs kept by natives. It was only the other day, and three miles from Perth, he came upon an old native woman with no less than twenty dogs about her. Mr. Steere's suggestion commended itself

to him, and he thought it would be desirable to act upon it.

MR. BROWN moved that the bill be referred to a select committee, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Harper, Mr. Steere, Mr. Grant, Mr. Wittenoom, and the mover.

This was agreed to.

The House adjourned at a quarter to one o'clock, p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, 31st July, 1885.*

Colonial Passengers Amendment Bill: first reading—Message (No. 10): Report of Commission on the Transfer of the Convict Establishment—Petition (No. 1): Proposed appointment of two Unofficial Members of the Executive—Consideration of His Excellency's Message (No. 1) re appointment of two Unofficial Members for the Executive Council—Bush Fires Bill: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### COLONIAL PASSENGERS AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved the first reading of a bill to amend the Colonial Passengers Ordinances and Acts.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

MESSAGE (No. 10): REPORT OF COMMISSION re TRANSFER OF IMPERIAL CONVICT ESTABLISHMENT.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to transmit, herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Legislative Council, the report of the Commission appointed