

be reasonable cause to suspect was not of the standard quality, but there was nothing in the clause to prevent such kerosene being landed, and unless it happened to be suspected it might be placed on the market, and very serious consequences might be the result. There were some difficulties in the way, he admitted, but if progress were reported, some amendment might be prepared that would meet the case.

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

NORTHERN DISTRICTS REVENUE AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this bill, said its object was merely to empower the Governor from time to time to appoint the persons who shall be the authorities to issue licenses under the provisions of the Northern District Special Revenue Act.

The motion for the second reading was agreed to, *sub silentio*.

The House adjourned at a quarter to twelve o'clock (midnight).

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 10th August, 1885.

Kimberley gold specimens and Geological Map—School Buildings at York and Newcastle—Water-boring, Eucla District—Annuity to Lady Barlee—Message (No. 11): Execution of Public Works enumerated in the Schedule of the Loan Act, 1884—Allowance to His Excellency the Governor—Indemnification for War Losses (Message No. 4)—Imported Stock Amendment Bill: in committee—Colonial Passengers Amendment Bill: third reading—Explosives Bill: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

KIMBERLEY GOLD SPECIMENS AND GEOLOGICAL MAP.

MR. GRANT asked the Surveyor General to lay on the table the geological map made by Mr. Hardman of the Kimberley district, and also the gold specimens of auriferous quartz alleged to have been discovered there by Mr. Hardman, for the inspection of hon. members.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest) said the map was not yet quite ready, but would be placed on the table when completed. He was absent from the colony when Mr. Hardman returned from his expedition to the Kimberley district, and he had not the gold specimens in his possession, but would make inquiries with regard to them. As to the map, he thought, when hon. members saw it, they would be satisfied that Mr. Hardman's labors had not been thrown away, and that the money thus spent had, combined with Mr. Hardman's report, probably done more to advance the material interests of the colony than any other sum of money spent in the colony.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS, YORK AND NEW- CASTLE.

In reply to MR. HARPER, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that tenders would be invited for the erection of the school buildings at York and Newcastle (promised last year by the Central Board), as soon as the Board had approved of the revised plans and specifications of the buildings.

WATER-BORING, EUCLA DISTRICT.

MR. BROWN, with leave, without notice, asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands whether the applicants for assistance in boring for water in the Eucla District, referred to in the Governor's Message to that House were the same persons who in 1883 had applied for and were refused similar concessions.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he would inquire, and answer the hon. member's question another day.

ANNUITY TO LADY BARLEE.

MR. CROWTHER, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That this House desires to mark its

"grateful sense of the long and valuable services of the late Sir F. P. Barlee, K.C.M.G., as Colonial Secretary of this colony, by granting to his widow and relict, Dame Jane Barlee, an annuity of £100 sterling for her life; and prays that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to introduce a bill to give effect to this resolution." The hon. member said the motion required little or nothing from him to commend it to the good sense and kindly feeling of the House. It was, as stated, a slight recognition of the excellent service done by Sir Frederick Barlee to Western Australia, during the period of a quarter of a century that he was officially connected with it. The late Colonial Secretary had spent not only his time and his talents here, but he was very much afraid he had also spent a great deal of his money. It was a delicate subject to touch upon, but it was known that his widow had not been left in such circumstances as they could wish. It was unnecessary for him to enter into details of Sir Frederick Barlee's services to the colony; those services were well known. He served under many successive Governors, and always held his own. When he first arrived here the colony was a purely Crown colony, of the severest type, but he lived here and worked here long enough to see the colony enter into the possession of the more advanced constitution which it now possessed, and he might say enjoyed. As every hon. member in the House knew the late Colonial Secretary as well as he did, it would be superfluous on his part to dwell upon the good services which he had rendered to the colony. He was sure the resolution, without any words on his part to recommend it, would be cordially adopted, and without a dissentient voice.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he heartily endorsed all that had fallen from the mover of the resolution, and he hoped they should all unite, with one accord, in paying this slight graceful tribute to the memory of a man who probably had done more for this colony in his time than any other official connected with it.

MR. BROWN said the resolution must commend itself to them all. The only feeling he entertained with reference to it was that the amount asked for was to

his mind rather smaller than should be voted. They knew that Sir Frederick Barlee had spent the best years of his life in serving this colony, and that he was the friend of all, young and old, rich and poor alike. He was certainly the most prominent figure in Western Australia during his long connection with it, and no one would gainsay that the progress made by the colony was in a great measure due to Mr. Barlee's single-minded exertions in promoting its advancement. He hoped the hon. member in charge of the resolution would consent to the amount being increased to £150.

MR. MARMION felt that in granting this annuity to Lady Barlee the House was simply performing an act of justice towards that amiable and most deserving lady. It was a gracious though slight recognition of the service done to Western Australia by her late husband. He was one of those who had good cause to remember the late Frederick Palgrave Barlee. It was under his fostering wing that he first entered that Council, and he could safely say from his own personal experience of the late Colonial Secretary that there never was a man in the colony who more sincerely desired to see it prosper, or who worked more assiduously to that end. The resolution had his most cordial support, and he trusted that the amount of the grant would be increased as proposed.

MR. GRANT said although he had never been personally acquainted with the late Colonial Secretary his name was so closely associated with the history of the colony that he felt fully justified in supporting the resolution. It appeared that Sir Frederick Barlee's term of office in the West Indian islands was not long enough to entitle his widow to a pension, and, as he had done more for this colony than probably any other public servant had done for it, it was only right that the colony should in this way show his widow that his services were not forgotten.

MR. BURT said that not only was the late Mr. Barlee Colonial Secretary of the colony, he was for many years the embodiment of the whole Government. He was sure there was not a constituency in the colony but would heartily endorse the action of its representative in supporting this vote.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest) said it afforded him sincere pleasure to give the resolution his support. All who knew the late Sir Frederick Barlee knew how great a friend he always was to the rising generation of West Australians, and how ready he ever was to give them a helping hand. He (Mr. Forrest) was one of those who in this way had been much indebted to him, and he should ever feel that he owed a debt of gratitude to him for the many acts of consideration and kindness he had shown to him when acts of consideration and kindness were of great value to him. Hon. members had already referred to the great interest which the Colonial Secretary took in everything concerning this colony, while he was amongst us. He believed that even to the day of his death he took far greater interest in Western Australia and its people than he did in anywhere else. It was to be regretted that with so much energy, so much ability, and so much perseverance the late Sir Frederick was after all not a successful man in the worldly sense of the term. He considered that this colony, and that House as representing the colony, should regard it as a privilege to be able to contribute in some slight way to lighten the cares of the amiable lady, his widow, who was left to mourn him.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said it might appear somewhat strange to hon. members that he should desire to say a word or two on this occasion, because it was probable that the members of the committee were under the impression at that moment that he had not had the acquaintance of the late Sir Frederick Barlee. On the contrary, he had made his acquaintance under circumstances which put upon him the duty, and it certainly was to him a great pleasure, to support the motion before the committee. When he accepted the appointment which he now held under Her Majesty, he naturally made inquiries as to whether there was anyone in England who could give him any information as to this colony; and the secretary of the Colonial Institute, whom he knew, was good enough to tell him that Sir Frederick Barlee—he was then Mr. Barlee—was in England, and that from what he knew of him no one

was in a position to give better information about the colony than its late Colonial Secretary. Sir Frederick Barlee took the trouble to arrange that they should meet at different times, and he must say he felt flattered by the unreserved way in which he took him into his confidence, and gave him all the information in his power. Not only did he give it as to the colony generally, he also gave his opinion—and he said it now though he had never mentioned it before—he also unreservedly gave his opinion of the leading men of the colony. He might go further and say that the views which he was good enough to give him on those occasions had been confirmed, so far as he had been able to confirm them by his own personal opinion. He might say that he felt flattered that a gentleman so distinguished as Sir Frederick Barlee should thus have at once taken him into his confidence; and the opinion which he then formed of Sir Frederick Barlee was that he was an able, honest, and independent man. The mover of the resolution said that the late Colonial Secretary was a man who always held his own. A man in his position must sometimes have held his own in opposition to the honest perhaps but strong opinions of other people; and he thought it spoke well for the members of that House that, although the late Colonial Secretary must necessarily have run sometimes counter to their opinions, yet, in the words of the poet, they respected the man of independent mind. He thought they would all agree that men of independent mind, who were prepared to hold their own when they believed they were in the right, were not too common in this world. The hon. member for Fremantle said he first entered public life under the auspices of the late Sir Frederick Barlee. He could only say that if the hon. member followed the example of his master—if he would allow him to use that expression—the hon. member would continue to be what he ventured to think he already was—an ornament to that House. His hon. friend the Surveyor General, in the few words which he spoke on the subject, said it was to be regretted that Sir Frederick Barlee was not more successful in worldly matters. From one point of view no doubt that was a matter for regret,

but he thought it must be a satisfaction to them all to know that Sir Frederick Barlee did his duty to the colony without seeking to put away any money for himself; and he thought, although it had been said that this was a grievous thing in connection with the career of the deceased gentleman, it was a thing that redounded to his credit, and shed a lustre upon his memory. Perhaps he might be pardoned if he mentioned that amongst others of whom Sir Frederick Barlee had spoken to him in England was his hon. friend on the right, the Surveyor General. He told him of the interest that he took in Mr. Forrest, and told him all about him; and he might perhaps be pardoned if he now added that every word which Sir Frederick Barlee then told him of the Surveyor General had been perfectly verified, according to his own judgment. He had great pleasure in supporting the motion.

SIR LUKE LEAKE said he wished to state how glad indeed he was to have an opportunity of supporting this address. He wished from his heart that the good and amiable lady to whom it was proposed to give this pension might live long to enjoy it.

MR. CROWTHER said he would be delighted to increase the amount to £150, as suggested.

The resolution was amended accordingly, and, upon being put, was adopted unanimously.

MESSAGE (No. 11): EXECUTION OF THE VARIOUS PUBLIC WORKS ENUMERATED IN LOAN SCHEDULE.

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

"The Governor desires to consult the Honorable the Legislative Council respecting the execution of the various Public Works enumerated in the Schedule to the Loan Act of 1884.

"2. The commencement of the Harbour Works at Fremantle must necessarily await the receipt and sanction of the Report of Sir John Coode, who is of opinion that £30,000 will be a sufficient sum to set aside under this head on the Loan Estimates of 1886.

"3. The York and Beverley Railway is being proceeded with, under the general powers of the Crown. It is

"desirable, however, that the usual special Bill authorising the construction of the line should be introduced into the Council. This will be done at once.

"4. The routes of the Railway from Spencer's Brook northwards, of the Greenough Railway, and of the Bunbury Railway, still remain to be finally determined. The Governor thinks that a recommendation in each case should be made by Your Honorable House, after considering the views of the Engineer-in-Chief of Railways, the known wishes of the inhabitants of the different districts, and the showing of the surveys which have been made or are in course of completion. When the routes have been determined, the Bills authorising the construction of the Railways will be brought forward.

"5. These necessary steps having been taken, it appears to the Governor that the Railways should be proceeded with at once, tenders being called for, not only in this, but in the neighboring Colonies, and possibly in England.

"6. The £20,000 set aside for a Tramway and Harbor improvements at Roebourne and Cossack should, it is suggested, be expended as soon as the Engineer-in-Chief, after a visit to the District, has approved of a scheme which meets the general wishes of the inhabitants, expressed at a public meeting.

"7. The branch Railway to the Perth Race Course could be undertaken without delay.

"8. The Derby and Roebourne Telegraph might at once be offered for contract, and should be proceeded with, the Governor thinks, at the earliest possible date.

"9. The whole of the Telegraphs, with most of the Jetties and other smaller works mentioned in the Schedule to the Loan Bill, should also, it is recommended, be executed as soon as possible. Your Honorable House will be asked to approve the plans and drawings under each item of the 'Works and Buildings,' in subdivision four of the Schedule, excepting the additions and improvements to Government House and Domain, and any work found advisable at the Mandurah Estuary. The designs for these undertakings, as to the latter of which Sir John Coode is being consulted, might perhaps, if not ready

"before the close of the Session, be left to be dealt with by the Government.

"10. It would manifestly be unadvisable to proceed with the extension of the Geraldton Jetty until Sir John Coode has sent in his report respecting the improvement of that harbor. This report will include recommendations as to jetties, &c.

"11. The Derby Tramway and Jetty is being proceeded with in advance of the approval of the Legislature. This urgent want of the Kimberley District admitted of no delay, and it is hoped Your Honorable House will approve of what has been done.

"12. The works projected at Carnarvon cannot be settled until the Engineer-in-Chief has visited that port.

"13. It is believed that it will be most beneficial to the Colony to lose no time in proceeding with the whole of the works in the Loan Schedule, and that the fact of so many large public works being on foot at once will bring and attract workmen from elsewhere, and correct any disturbance of the local labor market, perhaps more effectually than if the works were spread over a longer period.

"14. But the conditions of the different undertakings, and the resources of the Public Works Department, will necessarily prevent the whole of the works from proceeding simultaneously. Any expressed wish of Your Honorable House regarding the priority of certain works, assuming that all are to be executed as soon as possible, will meet with due attention.

"15. It will be seen that the policy of the Government in expending this new loan of £525,000 is to give the progress of the Colony as great an impulse as possible by setting on foot and proceeding with, at the earliest practicable date, the whole of the Public Works for which funds have been provided.

"16. The Governor will be glad if Your Honorable House will consider what is now stated, and will favor him with such views as may be arrived at thereon.

"Government House, Perth, 10th August, 1885."

The consideration of the message was fixed for Wednesday, August 12th.

ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNOR BROOME.

MR. VENN, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Supplementary Estimate for 1885 the sum of Five hundred pounds, as an allowance for Government House." The hon. member said he thought he should have the support of the whole Council in moving this address. Without the cordial and unanimous support of the House, he felt that the address would not come with that graciousness which would recommend it for acceptance. He had moved it with a view, in some way, of recognising the great services which Governor Broome did to the colony when in England. It was a rare thing to find a Governor leaving the seat of his Government to enjoy a well-earned holiday, and then devoting his holiday to serve the colony, as Governor Broome had done, not only at the sacrifice of his own personal pleasure but also of his pocket. He was sure His Excellency had done so without any hope or expectation that the Legislative Council would in this way recognise his services; but he thought every hon. member would agree that His Excellency had earned not only their gratitude but also some more substantial recognition of their appreciation of his services. In putting this address on the notice paper he had not thought it necessary to dance attendance upon any hon. members, to solicit their support, for he felt that the motion was one that would meet with their spontaneous and unanimous approval. In asking the Governor to place this sum on the Estimates he wished it to be distinctly understood that he did so with no intention that it should continue to appear on the Estimates after the present Governor's term of office expired. It was not a novel proceeding to ask the House to grant the Governor this allowance; such allowances were made in other colonies, and he thought it required no further words from him to recommend it to the approval of the House, unless some hon. member had something better to propose.

MR. WITTENOOM said he wished to say a few words on the subject, and, in doing so, he might say he heartily endorsed what had fallen from the mover

of the address. He thought all who knew Governor Broome, or who had watched him since he first came to the colony, must acknowledge that His Excellency had come here with a determination to do all he could to make himself perfectly acquainted with all our requirements, and, so far as in him lay, to push the colony ahead. His Excellency was a man of deeds rather than of words. It was necessary he should refer to His Excellency's recent trip to England. Not only did His Excellency make the colony better known in the mother country, but, by the prominence which he was able to give it, he had caused it to become the object of much more attention at the hands of its sister colonies. The services which His Excellency rendered for us at home were such as probably no other man could have done for us, and he was sure they were well worthy of recognition. He thought that when we had a good man and a good Governor like Governor Broome we ought to give him every inducement to remain amongst us.

MR. GRANT was sorry to say that he viewed the motion in a reverse light to that in which the hon. member for Geraldton viewed it. It was proposed to place this sum on the Supplementary Estimates,—they all knew what that meant. It meant that the country was to be saddled with this additional burden, whoever came here as a Governor. He did not wish to detract from what Governor Broome had done for the colony, not in the least; but we did not know who might succeed him. He thought that in the present financial condition of the colony—and he would tell them he did not think we were in a sound state at all, with our exports falling off, with our exports of wool alone falling off to the extent of some £60,000, with our sandalwood a drug in the market—he did not think we were at all in a position to squander money away upon table allowances for Government House. Once this item was put on the Estimates, they might depend upon it there it would remain, and, for his own part, he should be very sorry indeed to see it put there.

MR. BURT said they were informed by the hon. member who had put forward this motion that he had not considered it his duty to "dance attendance" upon hon. members in a matter of this kind.

Surely, it was a most impolitic thing to bring a motion of this kind before the House without ascertaining what amount of support it was likely to receive. In what position would the hon. member have felt if he had found member after member rising to oppose it? For his own part, he should certainly like to have some time to consider the matter, from many points of view, and he thought other members would, too. They were asked to vote, not a table allowance it appeared now, but an allowance for Government House. What sort of an allowance? They had already voted an allowance for the repairs of Government House, they had also voted an allowance for additions to Government House,—they were always voting an allowance for something or other required there; and what allowance was it that the hon. member wished them to vote now? He understood the object which the hon. member had in view was to give the Governor something in recognition of his services to the colony when in England. If that was the idea, all he could say was, this was a very sorry way of showing their recognition of His Excellency's services, by voting an allowance for Government House. Unless he was further enlightened, he could not support the motion in its present shape. He was quite ready to recognise in a substantial manner the eminent services which the country had received from His Excellency's visit to England. In that desire he was second to no one. He would be delighted to acknowledge the value of those services in a proper way. But this was not the proper way of doing it.

MR. CROWTHER whilst agreeing in a great measure with what had fallen from the hon. member for Wellington and the hon. member for Geraldton in their complimentary references to the services rendered by the Governor to the colony when in England, said he also agreed in much that had fallen from the hon. member who had last spoken. He thought it was hardly the correct thing to do, in acknowledging the services of the Governor, to vote an allowance for Government House. What had Government House done to entitle it to an allowance? As the motion now stood, they would be recognising the services of Governor Broome by giving his successors

£500 a year as table allowance, which they would be in no way entitled to; or, on the other hand, somebody would have to undertake the unpleasant duty of moving that the amount be struck off the Estimates. If they wanted to recognise the present Governor's services let them do so in such a way that the recognition would be confined to himself, and not to every Governor who might succeed him, whether he did anything for the colony or not. The hon. member who introduced the motion said there was nothing novel about it. There was this much novelty about it at any rate: it purported to be a table allowance for Government House, whereas the hon. member said it was not intended to be anything of the kind. That Governor Broome was entitled to some substantial recognition at their hands no one was more ready to admit than he was. The good services which His Excellency had been able to render the colony, even in inducing the Imperial Government to hand over to the colony the Convict Establishment buildings and other Imperial buildings, would more than recoup any sum they were likely to vote in recognition of His Excellency's services. He would move, as an amendment upon the original motion, "That this Council, fully recognising the services rendered to the colony by His Excellency the Governor whilst in England on his late visit there, and wishing to record its appreciation of his exertions on behalf of the colony, resolves that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place on the Supplementary Estimates such a sum of money as would make up his full salary during the time that he was absent from the colony."

MR. BROWN said the two proposals now before the House were quite distinct, and, in order that hon. members might have an opportunity of making up their minds on the subject, and in order also that a search might be made for precedents, he would move that progress be reported. He was sorry the hon. member for Wellington, before putting forward his motion in its present form, did not seek to ascertain what measure of support he was likely to receive. For his own part he thought the time had arrived when the salary and emoluments of the

Governor of this colony should be greater than what they now are; and, without reference to the person holding the office, he should be quite prepared, provided the finances of the colony were equal to it—and he thought they were so now—to increase the salary and emoluments of the Governor, whoever he might be. Apart from that, he certainly thought it would be well that the House should specially mark its sense of the exceptional services rendered to the colony by the present holder of the office; but he quite agreed with those hon. members who said that if we were to put this amount on the Estimates, as now proposed, it would remain there.

MR. MARMION said he was not at present prepared to say whether he should support the amendment or the original motion. He agreed to a certain extent with both of them, but he particularly concurred in what had been just said by the hon. member for the Gascoyne. Although they had recently added £500 to the Governor's salary, he thought the colony could well afford to increase it by another £500. They hoped always to have Governors able and willing to promote the welfare of the colony, and the best way they could hope to induce such men to come here and to remain here was to give them a salary that was something commensurate with the importance and dignity of the office, and the growing importance of the colony. Whilst saying that, he thought they might also specially mark their appreciation of the successful efforts made by Governor Broome on behalf of the colony during his late visit to England.

MR. SHENTON supported the motion to report progress. He thought it would be far better in a matter of this kind to have a unanimous vote, rather than the House should be divided in its opinion as to the best form of recognising His Excellency's services.

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

INDEMNIFICATION FOR WAR LOSSES. (MESSAGE No. 4.)

On the order of the day for the consideration of His Excellency's message, forwarding the correspondence upon the subject of a general indemnification by all the Australian colonies for loss or

injury to any particular colony in time of war, from the attack of a foreign enemy,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the papers had been in the hands of hon. members for some time, and he hoped they were now prepared to take action in the matter. The proposal, as His Excellency told them in his message, had been put forward with such able argument and in such stirring words by the commander-in-chief of the station (Admiral Tryon), and was so strongly supported by the New South Wales Government, that there was no necessity for him to do more than to ask the House to agree to the proposal, upon the basis recommended, namely, that the contribution of each colony shall be in proportion to its population. The object in view was very clearly stated by the gallant Admiral in his memorandum on the subject. "With the view," he said, "to give force to that great existing national unity which goes so far to command success, I venture to suggest to you whether it would not only be proper, but wise and reasonable, for every colony to agree that in every case, whether a house, a village, or town suffers from an enemy because his demands are bravely refused, that the loss incurred will be made good out of the general revenue of these colonies." It appeared to him that it would be a most judicious action on our part to throw in our lot with the larger and more wealthy colonies in this matter. Inasmuch as our population only stood in the proportion of about 1 to 100 to the entire population of these colonies, it was obvious that our share of any payments that might have to be made would be very small. It might be desirable perhaps to limit our contribution to a maximum sum, so that in the event of some very heavy demands having to be met, our revenue might not be drained altogether, and he would therefore now move: "That this Council, having considered the correspondence sent down with His Excellency's Message (No. 4), upon the subject of a general indemnification by all the Australian Colonies for loss or injury to any particular colony from the attack of a foreign enemy in time of war, agrees to the proposals therein put forward, on the understanding that it shall be also adhered to by all the Australian Colonies, and that any con-

tribution under the agreement shall be reckoned on the basis of population, and shall not in the case of this colony exceed £5,000."

MR. MARMION: Can the hon. gentleman inform us whether any of the other colonies have agreed to the proposal?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Not at this moment.

MR. BROWN thought there were many good reasons why it was desirable for this colony to take action in this matter, and he was sorry the Government should have deemed it necessary to fix a limit upon the contribution to be paid by this colony. He thought we ought to accept the proposal upon the condition named—each colony contributing in proportion to its population—or refrain from joining at all. He would therefore move, as an amendment, to omit the concluding words "and shall not in the case of this colony exceed £5,000."

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in seconding the amendment, said he thought it might not be advisable for the House to come to any definite conclusion on the subject, pending the settlement of the cognate question of defence, which was now under the consideration of a select committee. It would be observed that the resolution involved resistance on our part as well as indemnification, and he thought it was a much more important question than some hon. members imagined. He was prepared to join with the other colonies, but it was a very serious matter; and he thought it would be well to ascertain first what we proposed doing as regards the question of defence.

MR. MARMION said that as the representative of the chief seaport of the colony, he was fully alive to the importance of the question, and he agreed with the hon. baronet that it involved very serious responsibilities. It seemed to him to be a very serious question that this colony should undertake to resist every demand that may be made upon it, by an enemy. The hostile cruiser would in all probability make its first appearance at Fremantle, and it might be that in consequence of a passive resistance being offered, the inhabitants might be called upon to sacrifice both life and property, while the people of Perth and other inland towns might be safe. He thought the matter required their gravest consideration, and

he would move that the debate be adjourned for a week.

Mr. STEERE deprecated these continual motions for adjournment. Every subject that came before the House was met by a motion for adjournment. The House had now been in session for three weeks, and only one question of any importance had yet been decided upon. This might be all very well for town members, but it was very inconvenient for country members. He failed to see that there was anything in the proposal involving resistance and the fortification of our seaports. For his own part he did not think that any ports in this colony were likely to suffer much from the attack of foreign cruisers. He agreed that our contribution should be calculated on the basis of population, and that we should not limit ourselves to any particular sum.

The motion for adjournment, upon being put, was negatived.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) thought we should not only be showing our patriotism but also our sagacity by casting our lot with our sister colonies in this matter. They were very rich and we were very poor comparatively speaking, and he thought we could not do better than join with them in this movement for mutual protection.

Mr. BURT combated the idea that the proposed agreement did not involve resistance as well as indemnification on our part. What did Admiral Tryon say? "That history is replete with instances where a few resolute men have resisted successfully very considerable bodies of men landed from ships." Did not that mean fighting? And again: "Demands are likely to be made in places that have no defensive works—it is at such places we may rely on the brave hearts of our men and on the courage of our women, which has never failed in the hour of need. They would in their defence (the Admiral said) suffer—to their honor—in their property and persons for the public weal as much as for their own good." Did not that contemplate resistance, and not merely a passive resistance? Mr. Dalley, too, in his circular, plainly told them that "heroic resistance" would be the most effectual service that could be rendered by the colonies. As to limiting

our contribution to a particular amount, he thought that would only tend to make us ridiculous in the eyes of our neighbors.

The amendment submitted by Mr. Brown was agreed to, and the resolution, as amended, was then put and passed.

IMPORTED STOCK AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill passed through committee without comment.

COLONIAL PASSENGERS AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

EXPLOSIVES BILL.

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

Clause 22 (*Vide* p. 100 *ante*):

The discussion upon this clause was resumed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said that when this clause was under consideration before, a suggestion was made by the hon. member Mr. Steere, that all kerosene introduced into the colony should be tested before it was landed,—a suggestion which seemed to him (the Attorney General) to go beyond the scope of the bill. If all kerosene introduced was to be inspected as a matter of course, it would be necessary to have the necessary machinery at every port to carry out such inspection, which must necessarily entail some expense. He would ask the committee to let the clause remain as it stood, making it lawful to have an inspection made when the Government considered an inspection necessary, without making it compulsory. He thought the committee might trust the Government to see that, should there be any probability of danger, steps were taken to protect the public.

Mr. RANDELL thought it would be a mistake to incorporate with the present bill the provisions of the Dangerous Goods Act, and that it would be better to eliminate kerosene from the bill, or to withdraw the bill altogether for the present session. If it should be decided to adopt the suggestion put forward by the hon. member Mr. Steere, he thought the best way would be if a selection were made promiscuously from each shipment for the purpose of being submitted to a

test, rather than that the whole shipment should be subjected to an inspection. He thought it would involve considerable hardship and inconvenience if kerosene, which had been passed, could not be kept in larger quantities than 10lbs. He thought the bill must have been intended to apply to more dangerous explosives, such as dynamite; nor did he think that the granting of a license would remove the inconvenience which householders would feel in town and country.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) pointed out that according to the interpretation clause kerosene would only be regarded as an explosive when it gave off an inflammable vapour at a temperature of less than 100° of Fahrenheit's thermometer. If it did that it would no longer be regarded as kerosene, such as that ordinarily used for domestic purposes, but a dangerous explosive.

MR. STEERE thought it would have been better if the clause dealing with kerosene had been put into a separate Act, but he still considered it absolutely necessary that all kerosene introduced into the colony should be tested before landing. A case recently occurred in Brisbane, where a shipment of 20,000 cases was condemned by the Queensland authorities, although to all outward appearances the shipment was a good one. It was accompanied with a certificate from the United States officials, testifying to its being good sound kerosene, but when it was submitted to a test it was found to be inferior, and highly dangerous stuff. Under our present law, there was nothing to prevent that shipment of oil being landed in this colony, after its being condemned by the Queensland Government as unfit to be landed.

MR. MARMION said that the bulk of the kerosene introduced into this colony would not come under the definition of "petroleum," as defined in the interpretation clause, and therefore it could not be regarded as a dangerous explosive.

MR. RANDELL said it was bound to be treated as petroleum until it was tested, and proved to be kerosene.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) asked whether it was the opinion of the committee that any mineral oil brought into the colony which would not pass the standard test should

be confiscated? They might have an honest, *bona fide* shipment of inflammable oil.

MR. CROWTHER thought the test ought to be made compulsory at the port of landing. Such a test would not only protect the public, but also the importer.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said, having now further elicited the views of the committee on the subject, he would suggest that progress be again reported, so that he might endeavor to frame an amendment which would meet with the approval of the committee. In the meantime he thought he might move to strike out the words "Inspector of weights and measures," at the beginning of the clause, and insert the words "officer duly appointed by the Governor for that purpose." He did not know that an inspector of weights and measures need necessarily be an officer capable of applying a test to mineral oils, and there might not be an inspector of weights and measures at every port where mineral oils were landed.

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

The House adjourned at a quarter past ten o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 11th August, 1885.

Sir John Coode's instructions—Destruction of Rabbits Amendment Bill: first reading—Law and Parliamentary Library Amendment Bill: first reading—Extra Sidings and Station Buildings at York, Clackline, and Spencer's Brook—Bush Fires Bill: further considered in committee—Northern District Special Revenue Bill—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

SIR JOHN COODE'S INSTRUCTIONS.

MR. BROWN, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether the arrangements made by the Government with Sir John Coode, to advise as to the