

bearing in mind that the officers themselves had brought this fact under the notice of the Government. As to Capt. Archdeacon, no doubt he did some excellent work with his open boats; but the greater portion of his work was done in the vicinity of Fremantle. [Mr. SHOLL: He went to the North, too.] At any rate the present officers had to go much farther. He only hoped that greater progress would be made when they got a steam vessel for the service.

MR. MARMION said that was doubtful, unless they also increased the vote. The expense of working a steamer was pretty near double the expense of a sailing vessel; and if the *Meda* can only be employed for a very short time in the year out of the present vote (£4,000), we should certainly not be able to employ a steamer for any longer time for £6,000. He was afraid we should find that out—though he hoped not.

The vote was then put and passed.
Progress reported.

The House adjourned at midnight.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 26th August, 1886.

Steam communication with Wyndham and Derby—Fremantle Gas and Coke Company Bill: second reading—Benevolent Institution, Freshwater Bay (Message No. 10)—Perth Gas Company Bill: in committee—Colonial Hospital—Barristers Admission Bill: third reading—Reappropriation Bill, 1886: third reading—Guildford and Greenough Railway, Confirmation of Contract Bill—Estimates, 1887: further consideration of, in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH DERBY AND WYNDHAM.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address

"be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing him that in the opinion of that House it was desirable that steam communication with the northern ports of Wyndham and Derby be increased." The hon. member said he was impelled to move in this matter by the fact that every week they learnt that there was an addition to our population in the Kimberley district, from the other colonies; but, owing to the infrequent means of communication between this part of the colony and Derby we did not know what was going on there, and it was almost impossible for us to pay that attention to that portion of our territory which we ought to do, with our present means of communication, which was only once about every three months with Wyndham. He thought the same arguments might be put forward in favor of this address as were used for the telegraph line, namely, that increased or more frequent steam communication was absolutely necessary for the more efficient administration of the settlement. Besides, by providing more frequent means of communication, we had a chance of bringing more people this way, to see this part of the colony, and probably in some instances induce them to settle down here. Unless something was done to divert the trade of the settlement in this direction, we should find it monopolised by the other colonies. If we were going to take Kimberley in hand, in earnest, it was necessary we should be up and doing, and provide more frequent means of communication; otherwise we had better throw up the district at once.

MR. SHOLL thought this extra steam communication asked for meant an extra subsidy; and it struck him—and he thought it must strike other members—that the time was not far distant when we should do away with subsidies altogether. Anyone noticing the steamers leaving Fremantle for these Northern ports must have observed how heavily—in fact, excessively—they were laden. If we were going to continue subsidising steamers to run in this trade, where the freights were heavy, the traffic large, and the rates high, we were likely to defeat the very object we had in view, of providing this extra steam communication, for it was unreasonable to expect other companies to come here handicapped.

For his part, he thought it would be better to do away with subsidies altogether, when there was sufficient traffic to create competition.

MR. MARMION said if the address moved by the hon. member involved any increased expenditure of money, out of public funds, it behoved the hon. member to show where the money was to come from. He was sure we were not in a position now to increase the subsidy, though it might be desirable to increase the means of communication. If trade continued to increase, facilities for carrying it on would soon follow. Although it would be a good thing for the colony to divert the trade of the Kimberley district as far as possible in this direction, still he did not feel disposed to vote for any increased subsidy for any line of steamers now running. He thought we had arrived now at a stage that we might leave this northern trade to develop itself, without our spending any more in the shape of subsidies. The colony could not afford it. He thought the company itself would benefit by the introduction of larger steamers and by establishing more frequent communication.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said he did not rise with any view of opposing the motion; in fact, he might say that the Government themselves were of opinion that facilities of communication, steam or otherwise, with our Northern territory, should be increased whenever we were in a position to do so. He treated the hon. member's motion as an abstract resolution; he did not gather from it that the Government was to enter into any agreement. The Government would no doubt take steps to communicate with the company, pointing out the desirability of increasing the present steam communication, and the benefit which the company themselves would derive. Any proposition that involved further expenditure would have to be submitted to the House.

MR. VENN said, with regard to subsidising steamers, he thought the time had arrived, when the present contract was up, when we should seriously consider whether it was necessary to continue paying any subsidy. Under any circumstances, the steamers now employed could not carry more than they carried now;

and, if steamers paid with full cargoes (as they must), he did not see why the public funds of the colony should be spent in filling the pockets of this or any other company. So long as we subsidised these steamers, so long should we keep out other companies from attempting to compete with them. The resolution might be an abstract resolution, but, if the House agreed to it, there would be a very fine opportunity for the Finance Committee to fall back upon it, and he thought the committee would be perfectly justified—or, at all events, they would have a very good excuse—in sanctioning the necessary expenditure. He thought the House should either vote the money for the extra service, or leave it alone.

MR. RANDELL said he proposed to move an amendment. As the resolution was an abstract resolution, and the hon. member who moved it had not the courage of his opinion to move for a sum being placed on the Estimates, he thought the hon. member would not object to add the following words to his resolution: "if arrangements can be made to do so without increasing the subsidy now paid." He did not think the House at this stage was inclined to increase the present subsidy, when freights were so high and trade so brisk. He thought that with the advent of steamers from the other colonies, and with the *Natal*, we might expect to see increased communication if the settlement went on as we hoped it would.

MR. LOTON seconded the amendment.

MR. PARKER said the resolution itself committed them to nothing, beyond saying that we deemed it desirable that steam communication with the Kimberley district should be increased. Should he happen to be a member of the Finance Committee he should not feel justified in voting any money at all for this steam service simply on the strength of such a resolution. Last year the House passed resolutions involving the expenditure of £13,000, but the Government refused to expend the money because it had not been placed on the Estimates, and they came to the Finance Committee for authority to spend it, and the majority of the Committee thought, under the circumstances, they would be justified in sanctioning the expenditure, and they

did so. He himself refused to do so, and he added a memorandum to that effect in the Committee's minute book—that the Committee, in his opinion, were not justified in sanctioning expenditure upon a mere abstract resolution like this.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) really thought they ought to do something in this matter. At present the means of communication with the Kimberley district from the Eastern colonies, by way of Port Darwin, were frequent; but it was very difficult indeed to communicate with the district from this part of the colony, so far as Wyndham. He did not think it was likely that the present company would extend their communication without some additional subsidy; for, although they took large cargoes up, they returned almost empty; and their present boats were not fit for this trade. He thought we were not acting wisely in allowing the whole of the trade to slip out of our hands, as it was now doing. We were incurring a large expenditure in these Northern districts on public works, and it seemed not wise that we should have no means of communication beyond the present service. We could not communicate with our officers up there except by telegraph, although it was very necessary we should be able to do so. There were proclamations to be sent up, Acts of Council, notification of sales of town lands, and other official communications which could not be sent by telegraph. As to the duties of a member of the Finance Committee, he differed from the hon. member for Perth altogether. It appeared to him that the hon. member thought he was at liberty to advise the Government upon matters upon which that House had expressed no opinion, but that in regard to resolutions affirmed by the House they were in no way intended to carry out the wishes of the House. He thought if the Finance Committee had not sanctioned the expenditure upon immigration, roads, and surveys which formed the subject of a resolution of the House last session, they would have been wanting in their duties as the delegates of that House. He thought this was the time we should be up and doing, with regard to this Kimberley district, and that we would be shirking our respon-

sibilities if we did not attempt by every means in our power to meet the growing requirements of the district.

MR. WITTENOOM said he was altogether opposed to any increase of the present subsidy, which he thought was quite enough. We were paying no less than £11,352 for the luxury of steam communication at present—an enormous amount for a colony with such a small revenue. What was the object of these subsidies? Simply to establish communication with new places, where there was not likely to be sufficient traffic to prove remunerative. When the traffic increased and a profitable trade sprung up, subsidies were no longer required. What better subsidy could we offer any company than this goldfield? He should stringently oppose any further expenditure in connection with this Kimberley district until the success of the district was better assured.

MR. CROWTHER said he should support the motion, but would like to see it put in a more practical shape. The hon. member for Geraldton said the time had arrived for doing away with subsidies. That would be a question for consideration after the present contract ceased. It was a fact that could not be controverted that the trade of the Kimberley district was being completely diverted from this colony.

MR. PARKER said the Commissioner of Crown Lands had referred to the duties of the Audit Committee. That committee was not appointed as a board to carry out the wishes of the Legislature, as expressed by resolution or otherwise. If such were the case the House would only have to pass a resolution and leave it to the committee to vote the money. The Government was only supposed to come to the committee in cases of emergency, and the sole question for the Committee to consider was whether the proposed expenditure was one of such pressing necessity as to justify them in taking upon themselves the responsibility of voting the money.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: I think if the hon. member will look at the Act he will find that he is altogether wrong. The Government come to them in cases where they think it is desirable to incur expenditure; but, in cases of

emergency, the Government may act contrary to their advice.

MR. PARKER: The Act says: "No vote of public money shall be exceeded, or unauthorised expenditure incurred, until the Governor shall have invited the opinion of the committee in respect of the same."

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: Will the hon. member read further on?

MR. PARKER: "Provided always that if the Governor shall deem it expedient in the public interest, in any case of emergency, to incur any unauthorised expenditure contrary to the advice of such Committee, a full statement of the circumstances of the case shall be laid before the Legislative Council at the first convenient opportunity thereafter"—showing clearly that it is only in cases of "emergency" that the Government are intended to go to the Committee.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: No, no.

MR. GRANT said he had brought forward the motion so that the Government might be in a position to act as circumstances might arise. It would be impossible to specify what sum might be required; that would depend upon the necessities of the case. They might expect to see 10,000 or 20,000 people at Wyndham in the course of a few months, and if the Government did not take advantage of the golden opportunity now thrown in their way, all he could say was they did not deserve to benefit by it. Sales of land at Wyndham would soon be bringing thousands to the Treasury, and he thought it would be a most nigardly policy on our part if we deprived the people of the district of every possible means of communication with this part of the colony. It had been the saving of the colony this Kimberley District. Without it this portion of the colony would not be looked at.

The amendment submitted by Mr. Randell was then put, and, a division being called for, the numbers were—

Ayes 7

Noes 7

Ayes.

Mr. Layman
Mr. Loton
Mr. Marmion
Mr. Parker
Mr. Sholl
Mr. Venn
Mr. Randell (Teller).

Noes.

Mr. Burges
Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.
Mr. Crowther
Capt. Fawcett
Mr. McRae
Mr. Pearce
Mr. Grant (Teller).

There being an equal number of votes, the Speaker gave his casting vote with the Ayes.

Question — That this address, as amended, be agreed to—put and passed.

FREMANTLE GAS AND COKE COMPANY BILL.

MR. MARMION, in moving the second reading of this bill, said the preamble of the bill explained its intention, which was to extend the powers of the company, and to make provision for the better carrying on of its business. It was virtually the same bill as that moved the other day by the hon. member for Perth, for the Perth Gas Company, and, after the explanation then given of the provisions of that bill, it was unnecessary, and would only be wasting the time of the House, for him to dilate upon the provisions of the present bill. He moved that it be now read a second time.

Agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION, FRESHWATER BAY (MESSAGE No. 10).

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, moved the following Resolution, in reply to His Excellency's Message (No. 10): "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing His Excellency that this House, having taken into consideration the report of the select committee appointed to consider the proposal to construct a building for the purposes of a Benevolent Institution at Freshwater Bay, is of opinion that the recommendation contained in that Report should be accepted." The committee, in their report, expressed themselves in favor of the construction of a building for this purpose, and considered the site suggested to be the best available position, but that it was most undesirable in their opinion that convict labor should be employed in the erection of the building, even if such labor were available, and that it would not be advisable at present, in the public interest, to sell the property known as the Knowle, at Fremantle, and the Mount Eliza Depot (as suggested by the Government) in order to obtain the necessary funds. The committee were of opinion that the whole

question—involving, as it must, a large outlay—should be held in abeyance for the present, and they recommended that the Government should be prepared with a scheme dealing with the matter, for the consideration of the House next session.

MR. RANDELL said there was a feeling among the owners of property in the vicinity of the proposed building, that the establishment of a benevolent institution there would depreciate the value of the surrounding property.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the Government were asked in the last clause of the committee's report to be prepared with a scheme dealing with this matter, next session. The Government had already taken the whole question into their serious consideration, and had already suggested a scheme for the consideration of the House. As for the proposed establishment deteriorating the value of property at Freshwater Bay, he could not conceive such an idea; he did not understand what the hon. member meant. Surely such institutions in all parts of the globe must be in proximity to some other property, and he was not aware that the mere fact of the existence of such an establishment in the neighborhood had the effect of deteriorating the value of property. This report virtually shelved the whole question. The Government had pointed out that the present depôts were now full, that there was not room to accommodate any more inmates, and that therefore the Government must build,—which must involve additional expenditure. Where then was the money to come from? The Government had recommended a means of providing the necessary funds, and why the Knowle and the Mt. Eliza property should not be sold was beyond his comprehension. Something would have to be done—that was admitted; and where was the money to come from? Unless these properties were sold, he failed to see where it was to come from, except out of general revenue.

MR. PEARSE was glad the committee had recommended that the Knowle should not be sold. The Colonial Secretary asked them where the money was to come from. He would suggest that the huge building known as the convict establishment at Fremantle should be converted into a relief depôt. With the expendi-

ture of a few hundred pounds it might be made suitable for that purpose, for years to come.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) did not know whether the hon. member had visited the prison and seen its structure. It would be utterly impossible to convert it to any other purpose than that for which it had been built, without pulling the whole building down, and erecting a new one.

MR. MARMION had been informed by a person acquainted with the subject that there were portions of the prison premises that could be made available; and he thought the suggestion was worthy of the consideration of the Government, so as to avoid, if possible, for some years to come, the large expenditure which the erection of the proposed building at Freshwater Bay would entail. There might be some little objection, on sentimental grounds, to the conversion of a convict prison into a benevolent institution, but, after all, the position was a healthy one and a pretty one.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the Government had already considered this very question. He was one of the members of a commission that went down to inspect this building, and to see whether it could be converted into an establishment suitable for the object now in view; and it was found it would be utterly impracticable, without pulling down the whole concern. Moreover, there was an objection—a sentimental one, if they liked—against transforming a convict prison into a home for the destitute poor. Unless the whole building were razed to the ground and the land sold—which would no doubt bring in a considerable sum, that might be devoted to this purpose—he could not see in what other way it could be utilised for such a purpose.

MR. SHOLL said he noticed there was a sum of £5,000 placed on the Estimates for the celebration of Her Majesty's jubilee,—could not that money be devoted to the purpose of providing this benevolent institution? What could be more appropriate?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the Director of Public Works had prepared an estimate of the cost of converting the

Fremantle prison into a benevolent institution, and the expense he believed would amount to nearly as much as it would cost to erect the new building at Freshwater Bay. He thought they ought to try and get rid of this old convict prison, which was an eye-sore to the place, rather than keep it up as a monument of the past. There was this to be said also as to converting it into a benevolent institution—it was open to the same objection as the present depôts, being situated in the centre of a town.

MR. VENN thought the Government had pointed out a very good way of getting the money, and that was to sell the present properties at the Knowle and Mt. Eliza. Why on earth should the colony be saddled with the expense of keeping up a lot of useless buildings, and spending money to keep them in order? These properties, if sold, would realise their value, and it was very clear that something would have to be done, and that it could not come out of general revenue. He thought they were putting the Government in a hole altogether. He would recommend hon. members to support the Government in realising the scheme placed before them.

MR. RANDELL said the select committee in the course of their inquiries elicited the fact that the cost of the proposed building, without convict labor—which the committee deprecated—would be nearer £15,000 than £5,000.

The resolution was then put and adopted.

COLONIAL HOSPITAL.

MR. SCOTT moved "That an humble address be presented to the Governor, praying His Excellency to be pleased to take such steps as may be necessary to give effect to the recommendations of the select committee appointed to inquire into the working of the Colonial Hospital; also drawing His Excellency's attention to the recommendation of the committee with reference to increased accommodation and a more efficient nursing staff." The committee, after examining the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Jameson, Dr. Kenny, and also the Rev. Father Gibney and the Rev. Mr. Campbell (who had had some experience of similar institutions), came to the conclusion that the present hospital met existing require-

ments fairly well, but they thought that in view of the increase of population some additional accommodation should at once be afforded. With a view of attaining that object, without making any material change in the present arrangements, the committee suggested that an operating ward might be added to the hospital, which would put nine more beds at the disposal of the Colonial Surgeon. The committee further suggested that the nursing staff should be made more efficient, and that the personal comforts of the patients might be added to.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said with regard to this report and its recommendations—as with the other report which the House had just disposed of—it would, of course, be impossible for the Government to carry out these recommendations unless the necessary funds were placed at their disposal. He presumed the House would be prepared to authorise the Government to spend what was necessary for carrying out the recommendations of the committee.

The motion was then put and passed.

PERTH GAS COMPANY BILL.

This bill passed through committee, *sub silentio*.

BARRISTERS ADMISSION BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

RE-APPROPRIATION BILL, 1886.

Read a third time and passed.

GUILDFORD AND GREENOUGH RAILWAY, CONFIRMATION OF CONTRACT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

ESTIMATES, 1887.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the Estimates.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I should like, before proceeding with the next item, to make a few remarks relating to certain observations that were made yesterday. It will be remembered that when the vote for the Aboriginal Department was under consideration, the hon.

member for Fremantle asked me whether an application had not been made by the Roman Catholic community for aid out of this vote, for missionary purposes; and I was not able at the moment to give the hon. member a definite answer. I may now say that, in 1884, representations were made through the Roman Catholic Bishop to the Government, pointing out that a Roman Catholic Mission was about to be established by them at the North, and asking for certain aid. Subsequently, when His Excellency visited the North, he had an interview with the Rev. Father McNab, the priest in charge of the mission, and His Excellency requested him to write a letter, stating the position of the mission, and making such application as he thought the circumstances justified. This letter was duly forwarded and considered by the Government at the time; but, unfortunately, that year the whole of the money placed on the Estimates had been appropriated, and nothing further could be done. Since then no application has been made; but I am now authorised to state that His Excellency the Governor is prepared to place a sum of £100 on the Estimates—if it meets with the approval of the House—in aid of the Roman Catholic mission at the North, which is the amount voted by the House for the Protestant mission. I may also be permitted to make a remark as to the Volunteer Department. The hon. member for Perth (Dr. Scott) suggested that as a temporary expedient the Government might rent a building which would answer the purpose of an armoury and a drill shed, instead of the present armoury at the Barracks, which is rather inconveniently situated; and, as it is impossible at present to provide a drill shed for the Volunteers, I propose with the permission of the House, on the authority of the Governor, to place £100 on the Estimates, for the purpose named.

Works and Buildings, £28,340:

MR. SHENTON asked the Director of Public Works what he proposed doing with regard to the erection of the new General Post Office, for which a sum of £10,000 had been appropriated two years ago?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said they were hard at work upon the drawings, but, with the heavy pressure of work

now in the office, it would take some time to finish them, more especially as the amount at their disposal was totally insufficient to make anything like a building that would be worthy of the city. Perth was advancing so rapidly, and so many handsome buildings were being erected, that it would be necessary at least to double the amount now available for this General Post Office, before they could expect to get a building worthy of that name.

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

MR. GRANT said he should like to draw attention to a leading article in that day's *West Australian* deprecating the action of hon. members in discussing the Estimates, and in inquiring into the items as they did. He hoped the reign of terror had not come over them yet which the editor of this paper tried to inaugurate. So long as he lived in that House he should claim the privilege of inquiring into everything he liked. He regretted the tone of this article. The writer quoted the Acting Attorney General—

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: I think this is a question which the hon. member should make a special matter of; it has nothing to do with the question now before the committee.

MR. GRANT: Oh, I see; there is an attempt to burke the subject. I don't think it looks well at all. But, if I am out of order—

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: The hon. member is certainly out of order. This is what is called a question of privilege, which should be taken separately, and which the hon. member may take any opportunity he likes of bringing before the House. But it has nothing to do with the question now before the committee.

MR. GRANT: I only want to draw attention to the article, so that hon. members may not be deterred from discussing these Estimates, and, if I am not allowed to do so, I shall make a special case of it. I hope hon. members will not let this article have any effect upon them. It appears to me there is a little hole-in-the-corner where some members can get anything they like for their friends, and no doubt it is perfectly right; but I

think we country members also should have a chance. I think we have as much right to have a finger in the pie as they have. I think we have a right to look closely into these matters. This article goes on to say—

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I think the House should support the action of the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: Will the hon. member listen to me? I have not the slightest wish to burke any question, but there is a proper way of doing these things; and he can bring the matter before the House in another form, whenever he likes. It is not a question which appertains to what is before us now.

MR. GRANT: But this article may have a deterrent effect upon some hon. members. I do not think we ought to proceed with these Estimates, if we are to be deterred from commenting upon them. What are we here for? This article calls upon us not to interfere. It affects all of us, and more particularly country members.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: The hon. member may go on.

MR. GRANT: Thank you. It says, after some remarks about Mr. Parker: "Then you see members rise eagerly in all parts of the House. Six have been known to spring to their feet at once. . . . The sight is humiliating. The Acting Attorney General"—who is he? He is no more than anybody else who has got a seat in this House. "The Acting Attorney General, in stronger language, characterised it on Tuesday last as 'sickening.'" Well, sir, I call this "sickening" myself. Some of us are quite as much sickened of things going on in this House as the Attorney General is. I feel very much sickened myself, and I think we have cause to complain of sickness. The article says: "The reply made is that a principle is involved." Certainly there is a principle involved. We country members have just as much right as those who live near head quarters have to exercise their privilege of giving their favorites a shove up. If any member of this House wrote that article I say he is guilty of d——d impertinence.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: Order.

ESTIMATES.

RESUMED DEBATE.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Jetties, repairs, £400," said that on more than one occasion the municipality of Perth had made application to the Government for some assistance towards putting the William street jetty in repair; and some years ago a sum of £200 was promised if the City Council undertook to spend the same amount out of the rates. Unfortunately, at that time, the funds of the municipality were at a low ebb, and they could not afford to expend £200 on this jetty; and, owing to some mistake on the part of the Treasury, the Government vote was allowed to lapse, and from that time to this the municipality had never received anything for this jetty from the Government, although since then they had spent three times that amount upon it. The jetty was now in a most dilapidated state, and the City Council were willing to carry out the terms of the old agreement, and spend a further sum of £200 upon it if the Government would assist them as promised. Every other jetty in the colony received some assistance from the public funds, and, looking at the large amount of traffic on this Perth jetty, he thought they had a strong claim to some assistance out of public funds. It was proposed to expend thousands on a jetty at a small place like Busselton, and he ventured to say that for every ton of cargo passing over that jetty a hundred tons passed over the jetty at Perth.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Has any application been made to the Government since the vote lapsed?

MR. SHENTON said the matter had been mentioned in the House two or three times.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): But has any application been made direct to the Government? If the hon. member will make an application for it, I have not the slightest doubt it will be granted.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) moved that

the following item be added, "Town Hall, Fremantle, £500." This item, as hon. members were aware, was sanctioned at a previous session, as a contribution towards the cost of the new Town Hall in course of erection.

Agreed to.

MR. MARMION asked whether it would require £800, in addition to £2,800, for the Roebourne hospital?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Nearly £800 has been expended on the medical officer's quarters.

MR. PARKER, referring to the item "Furniture for Government House, £200," said it was a strange thing that Government House should require all this furniture every year.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he considered the amount asked for very small. It was nothing more than was required in such an establishment.

MR. PARKER, referring to the item "Works, Kimberley District, £8,000," asked whether it was proposed to expend this sum in addition to the money already voted?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): It is impossible to say at present. The vote is put on provisionally, and we do not know exactly how it is to be spent; but I am perfectly certain it will be spent to the best advantage,—not necessarily at Wyndham nor Derby. It will not be spent merely for the sake of spending it.

MR. MARMION asked what progress was made with the survey of the tramway at Derby? Had the Director of Public Works faith in the stability of the tramway, or was there any danger, with the high tides with which Kimberley was favored at certain seasons, that the embankment may be washed away?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the last news he had from the resident engineer was to the effect that the tramway embankment was nearly finished, all it required being stone pitching. The resident engineer had no hesitation in saying that when the portion of the bank settled it would become as solid as any sunburnt brick, and withstand any tides. The question had been raised as to whether the tramway should not be carried

farther on, but he had not been able to go into the matter yet.

MR. WITTENOOM said £8,000 seemed a large amount to vote for merely speculative purposes. Very liberal provision had already been made for public works in this district. Surely the Government must have some idea as to what they were going to do with this £8,000.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Will the hon. member pause for one instant, and think of the probable influx of population into this district? There are already large numbers of new arrivals, and it is impossible to say what may happen between this and next year. Very large works may be absolutely necessary to meet the requirements of the place. At the present time, at Wyndham they require a bonded store, Customs office, a jetty, roads, and also a gaol, besides a court house. Then there is the opening up of roads to the goldfields, with the necessary culverts at the various crossing-places. Then, again, at Derby, exactly the same thing has to be done. They will want a court house, a Customs office, and a very large expenditure on road-making. Altogether, I think this sum of £8,000 is a very moderate demand indeed, and I only hope it may prove sufficient.

The vote was then put and passed.

Roads and Bridges, £20,000:

MR. PARKER said this was a large increase in this vote, the vote last year being £15,000.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the vote included bridges as well as roads. Hon. members were aware that the £15,000 was for roads. They must also take into consideration the roads required in the Northern portion of the colony.

MR. CROWTHER asked if any provision had been made for a bridge over the Irwin,—an acknowledged necessity for years past. The Director of Public Works had recommended that the money voted for harbor works should be diverted to the construction of a bridge; but he (Mr. Crowther) had been in communication with the members of the District Roads Board, and they insisted upon the original intention being carried out, of improving the shipping facilities at Dongarra.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that, as he already stated in his report, he did not consider the money voted for the extension of the jetty at Dongarra would be expended to any advantage, and he had proposed that, instead of wasting the money on a jetty, a portion of it should be employed in the construction of a bridge over the Irwin, which, as the hon. member said, was much required, and that the remainder should be placed at the disposal of the Roads Board to open up the country, in view of the construction of the Midland Railway. He believed this would be far more beneficial to Dongarra and the Irwin District generally than lengthening the present jetty to no practical purpose. He understood that, with the exception of two or three gentlemen on the Roads Board, the whole district was of the same opinion. The bridge would cost about £1,000, and he thought it ought to be the first thing done.

MR. WITTENOOM expressed a hope that an additional vote would be given to the Murchison District for its roads, of which there were 400 or 500 miles, for the maintenance of which they got the magnificent sum of £200 a year.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the Government would apportion this vote as fairly as they possibly could. He believed the £15,000 voted last year was distributed without anyone finding exception to it. The claims of the North would not be overlooked.

The vote was then confirmed.

Ecclesiastical Grant, £3,543:

Agreed to, without comment.

Literary, Scientific, and Agricultural Grant, £1,025:

MR. SHENTON asked whether the Government were not in a position to give some assistance out of this vote for the Northam Bushman's Home, which was a most estimable institution.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): Not at present.

The vote was then put and passed.

Pensions, £2,264 18s. 9d.:

MR. CROWTHER asked whether, under the circumstances of the case, the Government could not make up the pen-

sion of Mr. Eliot, the late Government Resident at Geraldton, to something like his full pay. Mr. Eliot was one of the oldest public servants in the colonial service, and he did not think there would be a dissentient voice raised if the Government were to increase his pension to the amount of his full pay on his retirement, £530.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the Government in the matter of pensions could only act in accordance with the law. Mr. Eliot's pension was calculated according to the statute, and it was found that he was entitled to receive £406 13s. 4d.; and the Government did not feel in a position to increase it, or to recommend an increase, considering the claims of other officers, who, like Mr. Eliot, had performed excellent services for the State, and who had received no exceptional consideration in the matter of pension.

MR. WITTENOOM thought there were exceptional circumstances connected with Mr. Eliot's services. For many years he had held very responsible positions, and discharged the duties in a most praiseworthy manner; and he thought that during the few remaining years of his life—they could not expect him to enjoy it long—the least the House could do to show its appreciation of such services, as well as to encourage others to follow Mr. Eliot's example, was to grant him a pension equivalent to the amount of his pay.

MR. BURGESS wished to record his opinion in favor of the proposal to increase this officer's pension. He was a very old public servant, and he noticed no name on the pension list so much entitled to consideration. He had fulfilled his duties honorably and faithfully for something like forty-five years, and remained in harness so long as he had strength to perform his work; and he hoped the Government would see their way to increase his pension to the amount of his full pay.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT could not resist recording his vote in favor of the proposed increase. He thought this officer richly deserved to have his services acknowledged by the Government as highly as possible. It had been his intention, when the Supplementary Estimates were before the House, to have

moved that the pension of this gentleman should be increased to the amount of his full pay; but, at that time, Mr. Eliot's health was in such a precarious state that he did not like to move in the matter, lest it be considered that they were only extending their generosity to a dying man. He thought this officer was, without exception, the best magistrate who ever sat on the bench in Western Australia, and it was seldom or ever that there were any complaints about his decisions. He hoped the Government would see their way clear to accede to the proposal to increase his pension.

MR. GRANT said it was with some degree of modesty that he rose to support the proposal, having only been in the colony twenty years, whereas this officer had been in the public service for nearly fifty years, and he was a man who was regarded with the highest respect by all who knew him. Exceptions had been made in favor of other officers who became entitled to pensions, and he thought if ever there was good ground for making an exception this was one of them.

MR. PEARSE said he for one would be glad to see this pension increased. It must be remembered that during the early part of his services this officer only drew a very small salary indeed; and he thought, looking at his length of service, and the responsible duties he had to perform, he was fairly entitled to retire on full pay.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) thought the Government were placed in rather an anxious position with regard to these pensions. No doubt this officer was one who for a great number of years had honestly and faithfully discharged his duties—he thought himself that he was the most capable magistrate in the colony; but the Government in this matter of pensions were bound by statute, and were prohibited from granting a larger retiring allowance than the law provided, unless for some special services that an officer might have rendered. He thought the House would see that, however valuable the services of this particular officer may have been, they were not special services, simply because his tenure of office had been a long one and because he had discharged his duties honestly

and faithfully. Although a man might serve his country for the long space of fifty years, that did not render his services exceptional, so as to call for a departure from the rule laid down by the statute in the computation of his pension. The statute itself provided for these long services, for, the longer a man served the higher would be his pension. There were other public servants who had honestly and faithfully, and for a long term of years, served the public—he thought this Government might be congratulated on the efficiency of its old public servants—and it would be invidious to make an exception in favor of one particular officer. When it was asked that the Government should make up the amount of this officer's pension to his full pay, hon. members were asking for more than the Government could do, unless there were some special circumstances connected with the case, which would have to be reported to the Governor. Of course it was competent for the House to pass a resolution in favor of granting an officer something more than the Act allowed, as was done in the case of the late Captain Roe. But in that case, he thought—he knew it was done in Judge Mackie's case—a special Act was brought in for the purpose, and there were special circumstances justifying it. In the present case there were no special circumstances that the Government could see, as contemplated by the Act, to justify them in departing from the terms of the statute, although they regretted it.

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE reminded the House that when the late Surveyor General (Captain Roe) was pensioned off, there was no Superannuation Act.

MR. BURGESS thought there were special circumstances connected with Mr. Eliot's services. For the last four years, he performed extra duties as Resident Magistrate at the Greenough.

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE: And received extra pay for it.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) pointed out that there were other old public servants who would be retiring before long, such as the Resident Magistrate at York, or the Postmaster General, who for their faithful and efficient services were held in the

highest esteem; and, if the House made an exception in that case, it would have to show the same consideration for others, who had equal claims.

MR. SCOTT thought that, in view of the very precarious state of this officer's health, it would be almost an empty compliment to him to increase his pension. He thought it would be much better to give him a gratuity, in addition to his present pension.

MR. MARMION thought the discussion was somewhat irregular. They had already passed the amount of this officer's pension for one year, and nothing was said against it at the time.

MR. WITTENOOM said he would bring the matter before the House in a more definite form.

The vote was then put and passed.

Revenue Service, North-West Coast, £1,200; Refunds, £600; Immigration, £15,000:

These votes were agreed to without comment.

Geological Survey, £1,000:

MR. SHENTON asked for some explanation as to how it was proposed to expend this vote.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) did not know that at present any further information could be given than that furnished by the Estimates. It was proposed that the salary of the Geologist should be £600, that £350 should be provided for travelling expenses, and £50 was put down for incidental expenses.

MR. GRANT said he did not believe in the vote himself. He had no faith in these scientific men himself, but he felt that it would be useless for him with his two or three followers to oppose the vote. The vote for travelling expenses was a large one, and he hoped the Government would see that the money was expended in travelling.

MR. PARKER asked whether the item of travelling expenses was intended as supplementary to the Geologist's salary, or was it to cover the actual travelling expenses of himself and his party.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): For all that.

MR. SCOTT thought if they could induce Mr. Hardman to come here again it would be quite possible to combine in him the duties of Geologist and Public

Analyst. He looked upon the latter appointment as one of as much necessity as the former.

MR. CROWTHER asked whether this Geological Department was to be a distinct department or whether it was to be under the Survey Department. The Geologist would have his horses, and his equipments, and his staff, and the result probably would be that in a short time it would develop into a full-blown department.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the Government had not yet considered who was likely to receive the appointment. It had not been offered to any one, nor had anyone's name been suggested; but they would endeavor to get the best man possible for the money, and, probably, it would be desirable to secure the services of an officer who could also discharge the duties of Public Analyst, in the first instance.

MR. MARMION said it appeared to be a mistaken notion altogether—and he ventured to predict it was nonsense—to talk of combining these two offices. How would it be possible to discharge the duties of Geologist, perhaps hundreds of miles from Perth, and at the same time perform the duties of Public Analyst? If it were simply to analyse minerals it would be a different thing; but that was not what they wanted a public analyst for, and his duties would, as a rule, confine him to head quarters, whereas a Geologist would spend most of his time out of town.

MR. WITTENOOM was afraid the Government had gone about this matter in a very half-hearted way. It appeared to him that it would be only a waste of money, or, at any rate, that no practical result could be expected, when the travelling expenses of the Geologist and his staff were limited to £300 or £400 a year. The salary, too, was small for a competent geologist.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the amount was not so small as hon. members seemed to think, for this reason: we had not yet got a Geologist, and it was not likely that he would be here early in the year, and the sum now asked for would probably be ample for the coming year.

The vote was then put and passed.

Miscellaneous, £32,958:

MR. PARKER said that for years past they had been voting large sums of money for the destruction of wild dogs, and one would have imagined that after all this expenditure the number of these canine pests would have decreased, but he noticed that the vote for next year was larger than ever. He had heard that in Victoria, where the Government offered rewards for the destruction of rabbits, there were people who used to breed rabbits on purpose, so as to be able to claim the reward. He hoped this ingenious device was not being resorted to with regard to our wild dogs. He moved that the vote be reduced by £300.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT maintained that the expenditure was a most legitimate expenditure. The only thing was, we did not go the right way to work. What was wanted was the adoption of some plan for a wholesale slaughter of these pests simultaneously from one end of the colony to the other, from Champion Bay to Albany, by making one continuous trail and laying down poison. He felt certain that with energetic action and combination on the part of the settlers and the natives in this way they would be able to clear the whole colony of these pests, which caused incredible havoc among the settlers' sheep. This plan had been adopted in Victoria years ago, with the most gratifying results. The hon. and gallant member proceeded to explain his process of extermination by means of trails; but was brought to order by

THE CHAIRMAN pointing out that the question before the committee was not the question of trails but the question of offering rewards for dogs' tails.

MR. GRANT opposed the reduction of the vote, which he would like to see increased rather than otherwise.

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE pointed out that it was futile moving a reduction in the vote, as the payment of these rewards was regulated by statute, and, unless they repealed the statute, the Government would have to pay the rewards. He thought the Act in question was one of the most beneficial measures ever placed on our statute book. He presumed the cause of the increase in the vote was the extension of settlement northwards,

MR. MARMION said the fact remained that very large sums had been voted for the destruction of these dogs. During the last three years they had voted £3,600, being at the rate of £1,200 a year. Taking the mean average of the reward offered at 7s. 6d., this would be equal to the destruction of about 3,500 dogs a year, or over 10,000 dogs in three years, averaging ten dogs a day.

MR. BURGESS submitted that this only showed how prolific these pests were. He believed there were hundreds of thousands of them yet.

The motion to reduce the vote was withdrawn.

MR. PARKER, referring to the item "Proportion of Subsidy for New Guinea Commissionership, £166," said he understood this contribution was only to be paid conditionally upon all the other colonies contributing, *pro rata*, according to their population; and he understood that one or more of these colonies had ceased to contribute anything; consequently this colony was not bound to do so.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): That is so. I believe South Australia has seceded, but this Government thought it was due that we should make provision for our own share of the subsidy. I think in these days of federation it would be inadvisable to withdraw from this joint arrangement. It is only the same amount as we would have had to pay if every colony had been a subscriber.

MR. PARKER, referring to the item "Adelaide Exhibition, £3,000," said there appeared to be an opinion, on his side of the House at any rate, that it would be of no benefit to this colony to take part in this Exhibition, and that it would be unwise at this juncture to spend this money as proposed. He was rather inclined to agree in that opinion, and that it would simply be throwing the money away, to no useful purpose whatever. He therefore moved that the vote be struck out.

MR. MARMION opposed the motion. Although it was possible that the colony might not derive any great amount of direct benefit from being represented at this Exhibition, he thought it would be highly discreditable to the colony, as a next-door neighbor, if it did not put in an

appearance, and make what effort it could at putting in a respectable appearance. He believed if we held aloof we should be the only colony of the group that did so, and he thought it would be to our lasting shame. Considering the commercial relations that existed between the two colonies, and the friendly feeling that had always existed between them, he thought it would be very paltry on our part if we did not take part in this Jubilee Exhibition of the sister colony. It would exhibit us in a most insignificant light. If hon. members consented to strike out this vote, he believed that those who visited the Exhibition would blush to the roots of their hair—if they had any—to find Western Australia unrepresented. It would be a standing disgrace to us. He most earnestly hoped the House would not commit itself to what he could only regard as a most parsimonious action, utterly unworthy of any colony with a spark of enterprise or public spirit.

MR. WITTENOOM was afraid that, notwithstanding all the ebullition of feeling and all the virtuous indignation of the hon. member who had just sat down, he was one of those who would have occasion to blush when he visited this Exhibition—if he should ever do so. He really did not see what we were going to gain by exhibiting ourselves at what, after all, could only be regarded as a provincial exhibition, and one at which, if we gained premier honors, would probably never be heard of.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT said that whenever any hon. member had asked for a sum of money, however small, for some local work, the excuse of the Government all along had been "Wait till you see the Estimates; there is not a penny to spare." Yet here it was proposed to squander £3,000 upon a project that could not possibly bring the colony any *laudos* or do it any good whatever. He hoped the vote would not pass.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that in the statement which he made in introducing these Estimates he explained to the House why this sum was placed on the Estimates,—that the Government had been invited by the South Australian Government to co-operate in the movement and that His Excellency had con-

sented to be nominated one of the vice-presidents of the Exhibition. He could not help thinking, if it was possible for the colony to be represented, we ought to be represented. But it was no use doing anything in a matter of this kind in a half-hearted way, and it now rested with the House to say if they thought the colony was in a position to be represented in a proper way. The Government did not intend to press the matter.

MR. CROWTHER said he for one did not want to blush to the roots of his hair, and he intended to support the vote. He was glad the Government had put it on; and he could not be brought to believe that our appearance at this Exhibition next year would do us no good. Some hon. members seemed to begin to think that this colony had attained a world-wide celebrity and that it was time to begin to put on frills; but he ventured to say there would be thousands of visitors to this Exhibition who knew nothing about our colony, or its resources, and he thought, if we made a respectable show, it would be a very fine advertisement and a very cheap advertisement. The Exhibition now held in London showed what the colony was capable of, and he believed it would do the colony good; but not so much so as if we had a decent court at this Adelaide Exhibition.

The committee divided upon the motion to strike out the item, when the numbers were—

Ayes 13

Noes 6

Majority 7

AYES.

Mr. Burgess
Capt. Fawcett
Mr. Grant
Mr. Layman
Mr. Leton
Mr. McRae
Mr. Randall
Mr. Scott
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Sholl
Hon. J. G. Lee-Steele
Mr. Wittenoom
Mr. Parker (Teller).

NOES.

Hon. M. S. Smith
Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Marmion
Mr. Venn
Hon. J. A. Wright (Teller)

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, £5,000," said he did not know whether the Government had formed any scheme for spending this money; but, speaking for himself, he should think if the House decided to expend this vote it

should be expended in the erection of some permanent building, which, in future ages, would be a memorial of the event celebrated and an enduring proof of the loyalty of the present generation of colonists. He did not think the money could be devoted to any better purpose than that of a Public Library for the colony. He thought that at present Western Australia was the only colony that did not possess a Public Library. Almost every little town in the other colonies had one; but here, even in the capital of the colony, we had nothing of the sort.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) thought the present time was premature to determine upon any scheme for the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee. It was the intention of the Government to appoint a Commission to settle what shape the memorial should take; and the only question now before the House was whether this sum of £5,000 should be voted,—not how it should be expended.

MR. SHENTON: Not at all. If I thought the money was going to be frittered away in feasting and banqueting and celebrations of that kind I for one would vote against it, and I believe the majority of hon. members would vote against it unless they thought the money is to be devoted to some permanent institution.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I may inform the House that although it is the intention of the Government to appoint a Commission, on which all the members of this House will have a seat, to consider the most appropriate way of celebrating the auspicious event, it is not the intention of the Government to recommend—and I should hope no Commission would recommend—that the money be expended in “feasting and banqueting” or in any such ephemeral way of celebrating so unique an event. If it is resolved to commemorate it at all it ought to be commemorated in some permanent form, and my present impression is that this could not be done in a better way than by the establishment of a Free Public Library and Museum. That is a suggestion that has commended itself to the Government, and I hope it may do so to the Commission.

THE HON. J. G. LEE-STEERE did not think the money could be expended in a better way than in the erection of a Free Public Library in Perth, which would be available to all classes. When he was in the other colonies the other day he visited the public libraries, and he must say he was amazed to see the number of working men that resorted to these libraries. He did not think we could spend the money in a more advantageous manner. The institution might, in commemoration of the event, be called the Victoria Public Library.

MR. GRANT thought it would be more in accordance with the wish of the community generally that the money should go towards the erection of a Benevolent Asylum, and he believed such an institution would be more acceptable to our gracious Queen herself, who had shown herself such a generous and kind-hearted patron of all benevolent institutions.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the only thing was that the money would go but a very short way towards building a library worthy of the occasion, to say nothing of stocking it with books. The maintenance of such an institution would afterwards be a source of considerable expense.

MR. WITTENOOM did not think it would be a wise thing at all to expend this money in providing a Free Public Library for Perth. He did not think they were in a position to afford such luxuries. He thought the money should be appropriated to something that would be of benefit to the colony at large.

MR. SCOTT would prefer to see the money expended upon a Free Library than upon a Benevolent Asylum, which, after all, would only be a sort of poor house; and, so far as the people of Perth were concerned, he did not think anything would be more to their tastes than the erection of a Public Library. If the money only sufficed to form the nucleus of such an institution it would do a very great deal of good.

MR. SHOLL objected to the vote being passed until they arrived at some decision as to how the money was to be expended.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: That can only be done by reso-

lution. If the committee passes the vote, a resolution can be subsequently moved expressive of the opinion of the House as to the way in which the money should be expended. The committee cannot now, upon these Estimates, come to a decision as to how the money is to be expended. That should form the subject of a substantive resolution.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 27th August, 1886.

Personal explanation—Singapore Steam Service—Rabbit Destruction—Message (No. 19): Amendment of Standing Orders—Aborigines Protection Bill: second reading—Estimates, 1887: further consideration of—Land Regulations: recommitted—Kimberley Districts Quarter Sessions Bill: second reading; in committee—Wines, Beer, and Spirits Sale Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: in committee—Fremantle Gas and Coke Company Bill: in committee—Perth Gas Company Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

MR. RANDELL: I would like, sir, to be allowed to make a personal explanation with regard to a statement that has appeared in a public newspaper. I refer to the leading article in yesterday's *Daily News*, upon the discussion that took place in the House on Wednesday upon the Government Garden. I will read the statement which was made. The writer says: "A great deal was said last evening by the committee man before alluded to"—meaning, I presume, myself—"as to the benefit conferred upon the citizens by showing them by ocular demonstration how flowers ought to be grown. It appears that a large sum of

£250 which was voted last year towards the upkeep of the People's Garden was actually expended in improving that plot of land in the Government House grounds in which vegetables are grown to supply the requirements of the vice-regal dinner-table." I need hardly say—and I am sure the House will be with me when I say—that I made use of no words that would convey the impression which the article in question does convey. I very much regret to find that the remarks that have appeared in print have been accepted as true and have caused pain in some quarters, and especially to the gentleman who has to administer the expenditure in connection with the Government House garden. I did not say that a large portion of the vote was appropriated to that garden. I said I believed that a portion of it was last year expended in connection with the Government House garden; but no words I made use of conveyed the impression that any of it was spent upon that part of the garden employed in the growth of vegetables or fruit. The article in the newspaper appears with a sensational heading, "Pro Bono Publico," and the writer of it—I say it without hesitation—departed from the truth for his own purpose. I had expected that there would have been this evening in the same paper an acknowledgment that they had misunderstood the remarks that I made, and that therefore their comments were groundless. But this has not been done, and I thought the only course open for me was to make a personal explanation, and that it was due from me, as well towards His Excellency the Governor as the gentleman who administered that portion of the vote referred to, that I should make this explanation. I am quite sure that the House will support my statement that I made use of no such words as would convey such an impression as that which the newspaper article referred to conveys. Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion for adjournment was negatived.

SINGAPORE STEAM SERVICE.

MR. CROWTHER, in accordance with notice, asked the Acting Colonial Secretary whether—as the subsidy paid to the