

Yesterday, the Government was charged by the hon. gentleman with always accompanying its measures with a threat, if any opposition or resistance was manifested, and he (the Colonial Secretary) merely alluded to the fact for the purpose of expressing how glad he was to observe the change of tone in the hon. gentleman's remarks. He might also contrast the observations that had just fallen from the Speaker with the remarks made that evening by the hon. member for Wellington, who had accused the Government of neglecting its duty and shirking its responsibility. Hon. gentlemen when they made general charges of that sort should be prepared to substantiate them. As to the relative duties of the Government and the Council, he concurred in the reply of his hon. and learned colleague, who had most completely refuted the arguments of the hon. member. In a work upon parliamentary practice which he had before him, it was laid down as an old maxim that the duty of the Opposition was to oppose everything and to propose nothing; but the author went on to say that the duties of a leader of an Opposition were such that he should not lend himself to thwart unnecessarily the progress of legislation in the hands of Ministers, but should rather endeavor to encourage a fair and free discussion in the House, and if in such discussion his party was fairly beaten, it became his duty to facilitate the progress of public business, even when he did not approve of the measures of the Government. He had served two sessions in that Council with the hon. member and he had yet to learn what he had done save that he had consistently and persistently opposed everything proposed by the Government, and neglected to put forward any distinct proposition of his own. Having briefly reviewed the Governmental scheme of public works, and defended its action in the matter, the Colonial Secretary then proceeded to state that, with the exception of a railway to the eastern districts, and the question of a steamer—which latter might be provided without trenching upon a loan—the whole of the public works contemplated by the Government could, he thought, be accomplished for the sum of from £30,000 to £35,000, which he considered could be raised in the colony, by inviting tenders for exchequer bills or bonds of £100. Once obtain the sanction of the Home Government to the creation of a loan, and in three or four months the works might be commenced.

After some further discussion,

Mr. NEWMAN proposed that the subject be referred to a select committee, consisting of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. the

Surveyor General, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Steere, and the Mover.

Mr. MARMION opposed the motion.

Mr. SHENTON moved that progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Progress reported, and leave obtained to sit again.

The Council adjourned at 4.50 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 4th August, 1871.

Pensioners' Benevolent Fund Ordinance Repeal Bill: first reading—28th Victoria, No. 2, Amendment Bill: second reading: in committee—Assent to Bills: Message from the Governor, No. 3—Tariff Act Amendment Bill: second reading: in committee—Public Works: in committee—Estimates: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

The Minutes were read and confirmed.

PENSIONERS' BENEVOLENT FUND ORDINANCE REPEAL BILL.

First Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott), in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Pensioners' Benevolent Fund Ordinance.

The Bill was read a first time.

28th VICTORIA, No. 2, AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading.

Mr. SHENTON, in moving that the Bill be now read a second time, said that the measure was to amend the Ordinance intituled "The Enquiries into Wrecks Ordinance, 1864." The object of the Bill was to enable the principal officer of the customs and the justice of the peace associated with him in enquiries under the above Ordinance, to take the deposition on oath of persons offered as witnesses who were about to leave the colony, and whose evidence might be deemed necessary for or against the person or persons whose conduct was to be enquired into.

The Bill was read a second time, without discussion.

In Committee.

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

Bill reported, with amendments.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor—No. 3.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

The Governor has, this fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord 1871, and in the 35th year of Her Majesty's Reign, been pleased, in the name and on behalf of the Queen to assent to the following Acts; that is to say:—

"An Act to confirm the Expenditure for the services of the year One thousand eight hundred and seventy, beyond the grant for that year."

"An Act for the Naturalization of Aliens within the Colony of Western Australia."

"An Act to empower the Chief Justice to grant commissions for taking affidavits to be made use of in the Supreme Court, and for taking the acknowledgments of Deeds executed by married women."

"An Act to make further provision for the Maintenance of Bastard Children by their Putative Fathers."

"An Act for the Carriage and Safe-keeping of Explosive and Dangerous Goods."

Government House, Perth, 4th August, 1871.

TARIFF ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading.

Mr. LOGUE moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) opposed the motion.

The Bill was read a second time.

In Committee.

New clause—

Mr. NEWMAN moved an additional clause in the following words:—

That the duty on flour shall be 20s. a ton of 2,000 lb.

The SPEAKER opposed the new clause on the ground that it tended to impose a higher rate than the *ad valorem* duty.

The new clause, however, was agreed to, as were some further amendments.

Bill reported, with amendments.

PUBLIC WORKS.

In Committee.

Resumed debate.

Mr. DRUMMOND expressed himself in favor of steam communication, and of the proposed scheme of public works at Jervoise Bay. With regard to a railway, he thought the subject had better remain in abeyance until the result of the working of Thompson's road steamer had been ascertained. Preliminary surveys for a line of railway to the eastern districts, he thought, might be accomplished by our local staff of surveyors for a sum of about £500, instead of entailing an expenditure of £2,000 or £3,000 by employing extraneous assistance.

Mr. NEWMAN considered that steam communication should be left to private enterprise, but if the Council deemed it advisable to offer a bonus, he would not oppose it. As to the Jervoise Bay project, he had no hesitation in condemning it, and in stating that during the greater number of the summer months the present capabilities of Gage's Roads were equal to Jervoise Bay. Unless some extra-ordinary advantages were offered by the removal of the established port of the colony from its present site, he deprecated all projects having that object in contemplation. With regard to the question of railways, there appeared very little unanimity of opinion as to the probable cost of constructing such works. He was prepared to affirm that a line suitable for the present requirements of the colony could be constructed at about £800 per mile. This would include—

Clearing and grubbing	£	9
Formation.....		35
Sleepers, 1,980 at 1s. each		100
Rails, 30 lb. to the yard being 46 tons 5 cwt. at £10 per ton.....		462 10s.
Dogs &c for joints, 28 to every 16 feet		20
Laying rails and sleepers, complete		60
Fencing		10
Surveys and plans		10
Turntables, points, shunts, &c.....		20

Those figures totalled £726 10s. Add to this 10 per cent for contingencies, and the whole cost of construction would amount to £799 3s., or say, £800 per mile.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said he was not ignorant of the source whence the hon. member had obtained his data, and he was informed that the figures used by him were utterly fallacious. It had been proposed by the Speaker that application should be made to the Imperial Government for assistance in connection with our coast surveys. Other colonies had made similar applications, but in vain,—no further than the Lords of the Admiralty were prepared to defray half the expenses—and, he feared, it would be impossible for us to urge any stronger reasons than the neighboring provinces. In regard of the contemplated scheme of public works submitted by the Government, excepting a railway and the proposed steamer for our mail service, he found that allowing for the working of the steam dredge for two years, for extensions of jetties at Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, and Champion Bay, moorings at Geographe Bay, and calculating the cost of telegraphic stations at £1,870, allowing £15,000 for a jetty at, and a railway to Jervoise Bay, £3,500 for coast surveys for two years, £8,887 for carrying out the proposed extension of Fremantle jetty, the whole sum amounted to £38,671, or in round numbers £40,000. He proposed to submit for the affirmation of the House, a resolution to the effect that His Excellency be requested to introduce a Bill for raising a public loan not exceeding £40,000, to be expended upon the public works he had mentioned, and to pay interest on the money borrowed. He, however, had no desire to move the resolution unless at the wish of the House.

Mr. GULL briefly reviewed the programme of public works, generally supported the Governmental scheme, and expressed himself prepared to agree to the resolution submitted by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. NEWMAN considered it would be most dangerous for the Council to adopt any public work without first obtaining full and complete information. In regard to the proposed jetty extension at Fremantle, the hon. gentleman would not find one practical man in the town who would advise anything of the kind. As to the Jervoise Bay scheme, he contended that not sufficient evidence had been laid before the Council to justify hon. members in adopting it. Without a thorough investigation, he would oppose any expenditure upon a single public work.

Mr. STEERE fully concurred, and considered that the subject would be better investigated in a select committee, than in a committee of the whole House. He would therefore support the resolution to that effect brought forward on the previous day by the hon. member for Fremantle.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) proposed that the select committee be nominated by ballot.

This was agreed to, and the following committee was appointed, accordingly, with power to call for persons and papers:—The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. the Surveyor General, Mr. Steere, Mr. Newman, Mr. Leake, Mr. Drummond, and Mr. Shenton.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) suggested that, as the Hon. the Surveyor General represented the Government on the committee, and that he himself would be enabled to give what information he was in possession of by means of official documents and papers equally well as if he were not on the select committee, some country member might be appointed in his place.

This was agreed to, and Mr. Gull was nominated to serve on the committee.

Progress reported, and leave obtained to sit again.

ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

Resumed debate.

Item: Postal and Telegraph Department, £9,204.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) advocated the claims of the Postmaster General to an increase of pay, but on the same grounds as actuated the Government in all other cases to refrain from any additional expenditure, he was sorry he could not propose any augmentation of salary under existing circumstances. For similar reasons, the Government, although it was originally intended to make the postal and the telegraph departments separate, now proposed simply to increase the pay of postmasters for the ensuing year, and that they should undertake the additional duties in connection with the telegraph department. Next year, he hoped the colony would be in a position to pay postmasters and telegraph masters at the annual rate of £100 at least.

Mr. GULL concurred in the remarks of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary as to the claims of the Postmaster General, and the efficiency of his department.

Item: Two second-class clerks, Perth, £410.

Item: Three third-class clerks, Perth, £360.

Item: Letter carrier, Perth, £80.

Item: One third-class clerk, Albany, £120.

Items agreed to.

Item: Messenger, Albany, £30.

Mr. NEWMAN moved that £30 be struck out and £15 inserted.

Amendment put, "That £30 be struck out and £15 inserted", upon which a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes 6

Noes 11

Majority against 5

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Moore	The Speaker
Mr. Steere	The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Drummond	The Hon. R. J. Walcott
Mr. Logue	Mr. Gull
Mr. Shenton	Mr. Phillips
Mr. Newman (Teller.)	Mr. Hassell
	Mr. Brown
	Mr. Marmion
	Mr. Russell
	Mr. Monger
	The Hon. F. P. Barlee
	(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Item agreed to.

Item: Education, £6,181.

An animated discussion ensued on the item, £1,200, for new and assisted schools. The COLONIAL SECRETARY having explained that it would be impossible to carry out the provision of the Education Bill if this item were restricted to any specified sum, Mr. STEERE proposed that no more than £1,000 be provided for assisted schools for the ensuing year. This, however, after a conversational debate, was negatived, as was also a proposal by the SPEAKER that the sum of £500, grant for erection of school houses, be struck out.

Item agreed to.

Item: Miscellaneous Services, £2,850.

Item: Volunteer Corps, £300.

Item: Aid to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, £200.

Item: Queen's Plate, £100.

Item: Library Legislative Council, £50.

Items agreed to.

Mr. LOGUE, with leave, without notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency requesting that he would allow the sum of £50 to be placed on the Estimates for the Working Men's Association at Geraldton.

Question put, upon which a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes 3

Noes 14

Majority against 11

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Shenton	The Hon. F. P. Barlee
Mr. Brown	The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Logue (Teller.)	Mr. Phillips
	Mr. Steere
	Mr. Marmion
	Mr. Hassell
	Mr. Drummond
	Mr. Newman
	Mr. Moore
	Mr. Gull
	Mr. Russell
	Mr. Monger
	The Speaker
	The Hon. R. J. Walcott
	(Teller.)

Question thus negatived.

Progress reported, and leave obtained to sit again.

The Council adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 7th August, 1871.

Sericulture—Government Printing Department—Aboriginal Natives: select committee report—Actions at Law in Supreme Court—Small Debts Ordinance Amendment Bill: second reading—28th Victoria, No. 2, Amendment Bill: third reading—Estimates: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

The Minutes were read and confirmed.

SERICULTURE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid upon the Table of the House a letter addressed to him by Mr. P. A. Gugèri relative to the bonus of £500 offered for the production of half-a-ton of cocoons under certain restrictions, and moved that the same be read.

Question put and passed.

Letter read.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid upon the Table of the House a return of the work performed in the Government Printing Department, Perth, from the 2nd August, 1870, to the 31st July, 1871.