

came before the House which in his opinion was in the interests of the colony at large rather than in the interests of the North, he would not think of attempting to sacrifice the general interests of the country to purely local interests. He thought this was a special feature of Mr. McRae's character which they should all endeavor to copy. He thought it was very necessary they should all bear in mind that, although they were sent there as the representatives of certain districts, they should not be always fighting tooth and nail for the interests of their respective districts, but recognise the fact that there were occasions when they should regard themselves not as mere delegates from their own constituencies, but as the representatives of the public at large. He had much pleasure in supporting the resolution.

MR. MARMION thought they must all entertain a feeling of regret that, after years of hard toil in the work of pioneering, and when he had attained the zenith of his career, and had apparently before him prospects of a period of rest and usefulness, their late friend should have succumbed, as he had done. Everyone admitted that Mr. McRae was a man who was a credit to the colony, who was a good friend to everyone, a man whose advice was worth following and whose opinion was worth having. He was sure he was a man who would be largely missed at the North. He believed from what he had heard from many people from the North that there was not a man in the district whose loss would be more felt than would be the loss caused by the death of Alexander McRae. Personally, he had had the pleasure of being a friend of his for years, and he was a man whose opinion he valued. He was sure they must all regard his absence from amongst them as a sad event, and that they all sympathised with those whom he had left behind him.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

#### POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH THE EASTERN DISTRICTS GOLDFIELDS.

MR. MARMION, with leave, without notice, asked the Colonial Secretary if the Government intended to make any

arrangement for establishing postal or police service between the settled parts and the places where the recent gold discoveries had been made to the Eastward, at Yilgarn, Wongan, and other spots. He thought it was very desirable that some steps should be taken to provide a weekly postal service, as soon as possible.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that, as yet, although the matter had been under consideration, no steps had been taken to establish a mail service between the Eastern Districts and the recently reputed gold country. He only hoped that circumstances might necessitate the establishment of such a service, shortly.

The House adjourned at eight o'clock, p.m.

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### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 14th March, 1888.*

Plans for Extension of Fremantle Jetty—Contract for Construction of a Telegraph Line from Derby to the Goldfields—Suspense Account—Harbor Works, Fremantle: Correspondence with Sir John Coode—Mail Services between Derby and the Goldfields—Re-enactment of 16th Vict., No. 14 (Licenses to kill Kangaroos)—Message (No. 6): Forwarding Correspondence with Sir John Coode—Message (No. 7): Fortification of Albany—Message (No. 8): Coastal Surveys—Leave of Absence to the Member for Geraldton (Mr. Keane)—Revised Estimates, 1888: Financial Statement—Tenders for Construction of Telegraph from the Goldfields to Wyndham—Victoria Public Library Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

#### PLANS FOR THE EXTENSION OF FREMANTLE JETTY.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works when he would be prepared to lay on the table of the House the plans for the extension of the Fremantle Jetty?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he hoped to lay the plans and the estimates before the House in the course of next week.

#### CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DERBY TELEGRAPH LINE.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works:

1. If the contract for the Derby Telegraph Line to the Goldfields had been let, and if so, to whom, and price of said contract?

2. When it was probable that the works would be commenced, and date of completion?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied:

1. The contract has been let to Mr. W. Atkins, at the rate of £38 10s. per mile.

2. The survey party went up by the s.s. "Otway," with instructions to proceed at once with the necessary work of marking out the direction of the line. The contractor leaves with his party, I understand, by the next steamer, so as to commence at once. The date of completion is fixed by the contract at two years from commencement, but the line will, I hope, be finished before that.

#### RETURNS RE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the table a return showing the amount placed to Suspense Account on December 31st, 1887, and all amounts to credit of Suspense Account on the 1st January, 1888.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that a statement showing the transactions on the Special Suspense Account during the year 1887 had been laid on the table that evening, which he believed would furnish all the information which the hon. member required.

#### CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SIR JOHN COODE *re* HARBOR WORKS AT FREMANTLE.

MR. MARMION—who had given notice to ask the Director of Public Works to lay on the table copies of the correspondence between himself and Sir

John Coode, *re* Harbor works at Fremantle—said, as he had been informed, semi-officially, that there had been no correspondence between the Director and Sir John Coode on the subject, the object which he had in view in placing the notice on the paper might be met by other means. He would therefore withdraw the motion.

#### MAIL SERVICES BETWEEN DERBY AND THE GOLDFIELDS, *via* WYNDHAM.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary if it was the intention of the Government to make any better arrangement than at present existed for carrying out the mail services between Derby and the goldfields, *via* Wyndham? His reason for asking the question was this: he was informed on good authority that the mails from the goldfields had been delayed on the other side of the Fitzroy River for some time past, no arrangement having been made to get them across. A boat would be all that was required.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the hon. member would see, on reference to the Estimates, that a sum of £1,075 was asked for, to provide a mail service to the Kimberley goldfields; and perhaps the hon. member would be satisfied when he heard the explanation which he would be able to furnish to the House when that item came under consideration.

MR. A. FORREST said all he wished to know was how the mails were to be brought across the Fitzroy when the river was swollen.

#### LICENSES TO KILL KANGAROOS AND EXPORT DUTY ON KANGAROO SKINS.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to bring in a bill to re-enact the provisions of the 16th Vict., No. 14, intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the issue of licenses to kill kangaroos." The hon. member said his reason for moving the address was this: it was within the knowledge of every hon. member that, owing to the enormous increase which had lately taken place in the value of kangaroo skins, a large

number of people were now making a very good living by shooting or otherwise destroying kangaroos for the purpose of obtaining their skins for export. Some thousands of skins had been exported from the colony within the last year or so, and the revenue had derived no benefit whatever from these exportations. He had been informed, from a very credible source, that men were making as much as from £5 to £7 a week in collecting these skins, and that an enormous quantity of them were being exported; and his attention had been called to the fact that the revenue derived no benefit from this export trade, which had only recently sprung up. About ten years ago, when the Ordinance referred to was in force, and it was repealed, it was felt that in view of the small quantity of skins that were then exported it was hardly worth while keeping the Act on the statute book, and that was the reason why it was repealed. But he thought, now that such an impetus had been given to this particular industry, the colony should obtain some return from the large exportation of skins now going on. It must be remembered also that these persons who were going about destroying kangaroos were a great nuisance to station-owners. Complaints were made that they were constantly destroying people's sheep, besides creating a nuisance by their practice of leaving the carcasses of kangaroos about in all directions, which, in hot weather, caused a most disagreeable stench. Under the old Act the export duty on skins was 1s. per skin. It was a question whether such a large duty should be levied now; but that was a matter that could be arranged when the bill was considered in committee. He thought it was only fair that those who were earning a livelihood in this way should be compelled to register themselves, and have a license, so that stockowners might have some means of ascertaining who were trespassing upon their runs.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it would be in the recollection of hon. members that the Ordinance providing for the issue of licenses to kill kangaroos was repealed some ten years ago, and it was repealed in compliance with the express wish of the Legislature at the time. The Government were not aware that circum-

stances had materially changed since; at the same time, if the hon. member felt that the matter was of so much concern that it was desirable to legislate on the subject, the hon. member might himself bring in a bill, which might be acceptable to the House. But, so far as he was aware, at present the attention of the Government had not been drawn to the necessity for legislation in the direction indicated. It might perhaps satisfy the hon. member if inquiries were instituted during the recess, and, should it be found desirable, a bill might be brought in next session. The Government at present saw no necessity for it.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL hoped the hon. member would not press his motion, for, if he did, he (Sir Thomas) and he believed many other members intended to oppose it. The proposed legislation would chiefly affect the settlers in the district which he had the honor to represent, and the district which the hon. member for Murray and Williams represented. There were a great many people in want of work, and this kangaroo-hunting had afforded employment to several of them, who would otherwise be without means of making a livelihood. He was afraid this wouldn't last very long, and he thought really it was not desirable that they should legislate on the subject. No doubt some of the men so employed were doing very well at it; others were only just making a living out of it, as they had to go a great distance into the bush. There had been complaints, no doubt, from station-holders—he had himself received complaints—as to these men disturbing their cattle; but since it had been found that they could be proceeded against under the Trespass Act, if necessary, these complaints no longer existed. He trusted the hon. member would not press his motion.

MR. A. FORREST said, unless the hon. member intended to withdraw his motion, he should certainly vote against it, for this reason: during the last few years kangaroos had been a curse to the country, and, now that people were making a little money by destroying these pests, it was proposed to tax them. He was opposed, on principle, to any such taxation. During the last few years the Southern portion of the colony had suf-

ferred very bad seasons, and there had been a great dearth of employment; and, now that these men had a chance of earning a little money by killing kangaroos—which really did a deal of harm and mischief—he thought they might be allowed to do so without having to pay a duty. It had been the means of enabling many a poor family to hold their own and pay their way; and, if the Legislature were to place any restrictions on the business, those engaged in it would suffer a great deal. No doubt it was a certain amount of nuisance to landholders to have these men coming on their runs, but he thought this was more than counterbalanced by the gain, from the destruction of these pests.

MR. SHOLL said he could not support the motion. He did not know whether the hon. member was aware of the fact that in the Northern districts these kangaroos were becoming a regular pest. They were to be seen in scores—he might say in hundreds—about the Nickol Bay district; and, so far from placing any restriction upon their destruction, the settlers would soon have to turn their very serious attention to getting rid of them. He thought it would be a mistake to attempt to interfere with those engaged in destroying these pests, and making a livelihood out of it. It was a good thing for the colony, not only to get rid of the kangaroos, but also by creating an export trade, which, in return, would be the means of bringing other produce into the colony. Since the pearling industry had been started on the North-West, and the natives had obtained employment, kangaroos had increased to such an extent as to have become a serious nuisance.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT said his attention had been called by several of his constituents to the fact that these kangaroo-hunters simply killed the animals for the sake of their skins, leaving their carcasses lying about the country, and in this way attracting the native dogs. He should have liked, if possible, that something should be done to mitigate this nuisance, by compelling the hunters to burn the carcasses, instead of leaving them to rot in the bush. But he thought anything in the shape of a tax or restriction upon the destruction of kangaroos would be a mistake. He thought

the more they were destroyed the better, as they are very destructive to the farmers' crops. But something ought to be done to compel the hunters to get rid of the carcasses, otherwise, in getting rid of one evil, they would only be encouraging a greater one, in the shape of native dogs.

MR. SHENTON said he had no wish to press his motion at all. He had brought it forward, simply with the view of providing another source of revenue. His attention had been called to the matter by some of the hon. member for Plantagenet's own constituents, who had pointed out to him that thousands of these skins were now being exported out the colony, without the revenue receiving any benefit; and, as our finances at present were not in a very satisfactory state, he thought it would have been no hardship whatever to impose a small export duty on these skins, considering the high price they fetched. He had no wish, however, to press the matter upon the House, and, with leave, he would withdraw the motion.

Motion, with leave, withdrawn.

MESSAGE (No. 6): CORRESPONDENCE WITH SIR JOHN COODE *re* HARBOR WORKS, FREMANTLE.

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

"With reference to paragraph 19 of the Speech with which he opened the present Session, the Governor has the honor to enclose, herewith, for the information of the Honorable the Legislative Council, printed copy of "Correspondence on the question of Harbor Works at Fremantle.  
"Government House, 14th March, 1888."

MESSAGE (No. 7): FORTIFICATION OF KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

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

"Referring to paragraph 26 of the Speech with which he opened the present Session, the Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has received from the Right Honorable the Secretary

"of State the following telegram, respecting the defences of King George's Sound:—

"In accordance with strong desire expressed by Conference, Her Majesty's Government are happy to announce that they will be prepared to recommend to Parliament supply improved modern armament King George's Sound and Thursday Island, on the understanding that Colonies will be ready to undertake their part. Full details by post."

"2. Before taking any further steps in the matter, the Governor proposes to await the arrival of the despatch referred to in the telegram.

"Government House, 14th March, 1888."

#### MESSAGE (No. 8): ADMIRALTY AND COLONIAL (COAST) SURVEYS.

THE SPEAKER also announced the receipt of the following Message:—

"The Governor has the honor to enclose, herewith, for the information of the Honorable the Legislative Council, copy of Despatch No. 121, of the 25th of November last, from the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, with enclosure, respecting the arrangements for continuing the joint Imperial and Colonial Survey of West Australian Waters.

"2. The draft Estimates for the current year contain a vote to cover the Colonial share of the expenses of the survey, the amount, for 9 months of 1888, being £2,250.

"Government House, 14th March, 1888."

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MR. KEANE.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY leave of absence for the remainder of the session was granted to the hon. member for Geraldton (Mr. Keane).

#### ESTIMATES (REVISED), 1888.

##### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), having moved the House into committee for the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure, as revised, for the current year, said: It is not my

intention, Sir Thomas Campbell, to travel again over the ground that I traversed in addressing the House in the month of December, when bringing in the proposed Estimates for this year, feeling sure that I would be trenching upon the time of hon. members. It is, also, unnecessary that I should do so because what I said on that occasion is reported in the copy of the Debates lying upon the table of the House. Hon. members must be aware that proposals were brought down to this House to carry from loan account to revenue a certain sum in order to meet the deficiency which was apparent when the revenue for this year was calculated, and when the services for the year, based upon the requisitions which had been sent in by the heads of departments, were considered. That deficiency amounted to no less a sum than £52,628, and the proposition was to carry from loan account to revenue such a sum as remained at the command of this honorable Council, subject of course, however, in such a case, to legislation which would have been special to the occasion. However, this honorable House decided that it was not disposed to consider this proposition. There was no adverse vote taken; the matter was not forced upon the House. As I have said before, under this Constitution, proposals are brought before hon. members, and if they are not pleased to accept them, they are withdrawn and others substituted for them. That is what was done in this case. No adverse vote was taken, as I have said, because the proposal was not forced upon the House; but it was accepted as being the voice of the great majority at any rate—if not of all the elected members—that this money should not be taken from loan for such a purpose. I may at this point state—no doubt to the satisfaction of the hon. member for Kimberley, who has a notice on the subject lower down on the notice paper—that the withdrawal of this proposition and the revision of the Estimates upon the scale they are now placed before the House, enables the Government at once to proceed, or rather to arrange to proceed with the construction of the telegraph line through from Derby to Wyndham, *via* the goldfields. Now, sir, I began my remarks by saying that I am not going over what I said upon a previous occasion, but I think

it is right that I should explain to a limited extent the course that has been pursued in bringing the expenditure within revenue and leaving the margin that is shown on the Estimates before hon. members. The hon. member for Toodyay has very pertinently asked to be told what were the amounts carried to Suspense Account at the end of the year. I had hoped to place these returns before hon. members, but I have obtained from the printer the Suspense Account, which shows clearly what was carried to that account at the end of last year. Hon. members will see, on referring to the Estimates which were laid before them when the House was last sitting in the early part of this session, that a credit balance was anticipated at the end of the year, amounting to £13,671, but at the close of the year, as it was found necessary to provide for all those services and supplies for which contracts had been taken, or for which an order had been given, the actual balance was reduced to £4,424. Either of two courses would have been open to the Government had the Council been in session. It might have been well, to a certain extent, to have consulted hon. members, and perhaps in some minor instances to have had a re-vote, but, as I have said, those works and those supplies for which we have incurred liabilities were surcharged upon revenue, and thus the balance was reduced to what it is now shown to have been. Hon. members will remember that previous to the adjournment a new Tariff Act was passed, and it therefore became necessary to recast the estimates of revenue on that score. Some hon. members may think that we are too sanguine as to the results of the increase of duties under the new tariff. I know that one hon. member is of the opinion that we are not justified in anticipating so large an increase of revenue as has been placed on the Estimates, but I may say that, with the assistance of the head of the Customs Department, and after consultations with other officials whose opinion are of weight, I have every reason to believe that the estimate of revenue from receipt of Customs—which, as every member will allow, must be speculative in its character—is not over-rated. The increase on the different schedules in accordance with the revised tariff shows

an increase, over the estimated revenue from Customs on the previous Estimates submitted to this hon. House, of £7,137. With regard to the other sources of revenue, I have had the advantage, after my colleague the Surveyor General's return, to consult him as to the estimate of revenue likely to be received from the lands of the colony, both those rented and to be sold, and he is of opinion that it would be judicious to increase the amount placed upon the Estimates on the previous occasion, in the case of one item only, that of miner's rights and business licenses, mining leases, etc., which item has been increased by £400. If hon. members refer further to the estimates of revenue, they will see some slight alterations. On reconsideration by the hon. the Commissioner of Railways, one item has been added to the estimated revenue. This item was incorporated with railway and tramway receipts when the Estimates were before the House in December, but calculations that have been since made permit my hon. friend to submit the estimates of revenue from railways alone at £50,000; and, seeing that the tramways in the North during the last half of the past year—the period during which I believe they were in operation—earned £1,582, it has been thought right to place on the Estimates, as a separate item, the sum of £2,000 as revenue from tramway receipts. There is another item of revenue to which I should like to refer. Hon. members will find that, while on the one hand the Government anticipate receiving £500 during this year from the Fremantle Water Supply, it is expected, on the other hand, that an expenditure of equal amount will have to be incurred in necessary works in connection with that supply. This matter, I have no doubt, will be fully explained to you by the Director of Works. I am not aware that I have much need to say more on the revenue side of the Estimates, beyond that the estimated revenue, by the means which I have described, has been raised to the sum of £394,462. Though as I have said an estimate of revenue is necessarily speculative in its character, I cannot but think that there is reason to presume that the sum stated will be realised during the current year. Now, as hon. members are aware, we have had

to make provision for the loss of the sum of over £52,000, which was first proposed to be recouped from loan, and it has been partly done by a careful revision of the estimates of revenue in the manner shortly explained by me, and partly by reduction in expenditure in all those branches of service which, I may say, are outside purely departmental expenditure, that the present figures have been arrived at. The actual reduction in departmental expenditure, as shown on the revised Estimates, amounts to £21,552. The departments affected by this reduction are the following:—Audit, Survey, Customs, Works and Railways, Postal and Telegraph, Medical, Harbor and Light, Police, Gaols, Rottnest Native Prison, Printing, and Educational, and the Government Storekeeper's establishment. These are the principal departments that have been reduced. Now, with regard to these reductions, I may perhaps say a few words without wearying hon. members by going into details, which can be explained hereafter when we are considering the Estimates departmentally. The main reductions have been £9,520 in the department of Works and Railways, £1,106 in the Telegraph Department, £1,000 in the Harbor and Light Department, and £5,869 in the Police Department. The lesser departments include those which I mentioned before, but these are the main items, and the aggregate amounts to £21,552. A question—and a serious question—arose as to whether the exigencies of the occasion demanded a re-organisation of the departments—which would have had, I think, if hastily arrived at, unfortunate results—or whether some other votes could not be reduced. I trust sincerely that the circumstances of the colony will, before this hon. House has considered the questions of revenue and expenditure for next year, enable us to take a more cheerful view of our prospects than we are able to take at the present moment. We have, as hon. members must be aware, supposing that these estimates of expenditure meet with acceptance, a very narrow margin remaining at our disposal, viz., the sum of £4,424. But if after a while the circumstances of the colony do not improve, I say, without hesitation, it will be our duty—our painful duty—to so re-organise and re-constitute the ser-

vices as to bring the expenditure for the departments down to a much lower sum than they stand at present. I do not think, however, that there is any hon. member who would not agree that such a project would now be premature. Buoyed up as we are by the prospects that seem to surround us of the promise of better times, by the opening and development of those auriferous lands which we hear of on every hand, I think myself that to demolish departmental systems which have been framed with the full accord of, and in many directions at the request of hon. members on the elected side of the House, might have disastrous results. Such a step might have the effect of rendering the departments unworkable, and might leave them disorganised, while I think that every colonist would have been sorry if we had been forced to adopt it. I cannot but feel, however, that we are not yet over the dead point—those who are acquainted with machinery will understand the force of the phrase—but I think that we are ascending, and that when we do come to the dead point we will glide on and move over it without let or hindrance, and that we shall not again have to reduce the departments. I do not think it necessary at this time to go into details with regard to the items of expenditure, but I will draw the attention of hon. members to the paper which was laid on the table of the House to-night showing the strength and distribution of the Police Force under the revised estimates during the current year. This, I believe, hon. members, or many of them, will consider of value, because comment was made before the adjournment as to the necessity for the redistribution of the Force—its reduction in towns, and, as far as practicable, its up-keep in outlying places. When hon. members refer to this proposed redistribution, I think they will find that the main reductions were made in compliance with these representations. His Excellency has sent down to-night, by message, particulars of the arrangements which the Admiralty have made on our behalf for the continuance of the Coastal Marine Survey, for which £22,250 is asked for nine months of the year. There is one other item to which I should draw attention, because it is one upon which I

want to consult the House—that is, the cost of what may be called the Sheep Department. The Scab Act provides that a tax shall be levied upon all owners of sheep, and the intention of the Act is that the cost of the up-keep of the staff of sheep inspectors shall not be a burden upon the revenue. The working of the Act has been so satisfactory, and the services of the Inspectors have been so excellent, that the districts are rapidly becoming declared clear of the disease, and the owners of sheep are therefore becoming absolved from the payment of the tax. Hon. members will see on the reverse side of the Estimates that the income from this sheep tax for the year is calculated to reach £1,000, while, on the other hand, the cost of maintaining inspectors of sheep throughout the colony at the rates which have been agreed upon in the past, amounts to no less a sum than £1,862. The general revenue of the colony is, therefore, surcharged to the extent of £862 for the benefit of the sheep owners of the colony, and it was not intended that that should be so. I mention this circumstance as deserving consideration, but at the same time I may say that I have consulted the Board of Advice, who are gentlemen of experience—one or more of them are members of this honorable House—and for the present I do not think that they are prepared to recommend that the staff of inspectors should be materially decreased. It was with regret, I may add, that I heard a day or two ago that one of the most active members of the staff of sheep inspectors, the gentleman acting in the Gascoyne District, has, there is every reason to believe, met with an untimely end. From all that I have heard of that gentleman, he was a very active official and his loss is to be deplored. Sir Thomas Campbell, I do not think I need delay the House longer upon these Estimates of expenditure and revenue, as I have spoken already on a previous occasion with regard to many of the items, and it is not necessary for me to reiterate what I then said. I now formally beg to move the first item on the revised Estimates, and, at the same time, without wishing in the slightest degree to force the business upon hon. members, I would consult them whether, seeing that the Estimates, in the main, have been

before them for some two or three months, and that the revisions are easily explained, whether we may not judiciously proceed to consider them in detail, on this occasion.

Mr. PARKER said that when they adjourned that House some two months ago it certainly was no pleasant task that was thrown upon the Government,—that of reducing their expenditure within the estimated revenue for the year. It was one of the most unhappy positions in which a Government under our present Constitution could be placed. The House had refused to accept their proposals for equalising the revenue and expenditure, and, having given them a vote on account, left them the unpleasant task of revising their Estimates so as to bring their proposed expenditure within their estimated revenue. That task they had now fulfilled; and he thought the House ought to be thankful to the Government for the loyal manner in which they had carried out, or attempted to carry out, its expressed wish. It appeared that the Government intended so to reduce their expenditure as that it should not exceed the revenue, and they found also that the Government were now happily in a position to carry out that urgent work, the construction of a telegraph line to the goldfields *via* Wyndham. It was also a source of satisfaction that the Government now found that they were justified in increasing some of the items of estimated revenue. He could not but think himself that the anticipated Customs receipts would be fully realised. With regard to the Police vote, although it was still a large item he was sure no hon. member desired to see the efficiency of the service materially impaired. They all desired to see the country protected as far as possible by the police; they all desired good order as well as good government; and they knew that, with our extensive territory and scattered population, depending upon police protection, from Wyndham at the North to Eucla at the South, the service could not be carried on so economically as in countries of smaller areas, where the population was more concentrated. Although our police expenditure, even with the proposed reduction, still amounted to about £1 per head of the population, still, so far as he could make out, he did



not see how the Government were going to carry it out at a much reduced amount than that now proposed on these Estimates. He thought the Colonial Secretary had well expressed what was the wish of the House generally, namely, that although there was a desire for retrenchment, there was no desire for any radical changes or economies such as would have the effect of impairing the efficiency of any department of the public service. It would be quite time to talk about any revolutionary reductions in the expenditure connected with the public service, if, at the end of the year, they found the colony in such a condition of financial embarrassment as to necessitate such a drastic remedy. For his own part he did not apprehend anything so disastrous. He looked forward to seeing a great improvement in our financial condition and prospects before the end of the year. He thought we had every prospect of seeing a great impetus given to the prosperity of the colony. They found that in the Northern Districts of the colony they had been blessed with an uncommonly good season; and, although disastrous consequences had resulted as regards the Greenough district, it was gratifying to find that the rains in the outlying country districts had proved most beneficial, and that there was every prospect of there being a good clip of wool. He hoped that even the flood in the Greenough district would not be an unmixed evil, and that one good result of the inundation, which otherwise had proved so disastrous and painful, would be a larger and a better crop in the coming year. While on the subject of the Greenough disaster, he thought it must be a source of satisfaction to them all to witness the noble manner in which all portions of the community had come forward to assist the unfortunate inhabitants, suffering under this great affliction. He did not intend himself saying anything further at present with reference to the financial proposals of the Government, but it was the general wish, so far as he could gather, on the part of members on that side of the House, that the Colonial Secretary should not ask them to proceed any further with the Estimates that evening, but to report progress and ask leave to sit again on Friday evening.

This was agreed to, and progress reported.

#### TELEGRAPH FROM GOLDFIELDS TO WYNDHAM.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to arrange that tenders be called for the construction of a line of telegraph from the goldfields to the town of Wyndham. It might be in the recollection of hon. members that in the session of 1886 a bill was passed authorising the re-appropriation of a portion of the harbor works loan money for the construction of this line, and one from Derby to the goldfields. Last year he brought forward a resolution stating that in the opinion of the House it was desirable that the work should be commenced forthwith. The resolution was supported by the Director of Public Works, by Mr. McRae, Mr. Marmion, and others, and carried; and, later in the session, a message was received from the Governor, stating that in view of the assured success of the goldfields he agreed with the Council that the construction of the two lines, from Derby and Wyndham, should be no longer delayed. The contract for the line from Derby had been let, and he had been very pleased to learn from the Colonial Secretary that evening that the Government intended at once to proceed with the Wyndham line. He should therefore content himself by formally moving the address.

MR. SHOLL said that for his part he was very sorry indeed that the Government intended to proceed with this work. It might be a selfish view to take of the matter, but, when they came to consider how close the town of Wyndham was to the South Australian border, he thought it would be in the interest of this colony if the Government did all they could to try to divert the trade of the Kimberley District in our own direction, rather than that of South Australia. They found the South Australian Government already awake to the wisdom of securing the trade *via* Wyndham; they had already subsidised steamers to run regularly between there and Port Darwin. He thought our own Government ought to concentrate its attention to securing

the trade of the district by way of Derby, and if the residents on the goldfields obtained direct communication with the southern parts of the colony *via* Derby they ought to be satisfied. He thought the construction of this Wyndham line might at any rate be postponed for the present, especially as the Government had found some difficulty in making the revenue fit in with this expenditure, for the current year. He thought the Government had been vacillating and wavering over this matter too long, and, last session, he had been rejoiced to hear that they had given up the idea of constructing this telegraph line altogether, and he would have heartily supported them; and if the motion now before the House came to a division, he should certainly vote against it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the hon. member for Gascoyne seemed to have forgotten the action of the Council in this matter two years ago, when it was resolved that a portion of the harbor works loan should be diverted for the construction of this telegraph line, from Derby to the goldfields and thence to Wyndham. The Government, however, last year, finding that the finances of the colony were in the condition which hon. members were all aware of, submitted a proposal that only the line from Derby to the goldfields should be proceeded with, and that the other portion of the line should be delayed, and that the money appropriated for it should temporarily be placed to the credit of general revenue, so as to meet the estimated expenditure. As he had already said, that proposal did not meet with the approbation of the House. The Government having accepted the position, had now brought forward revised Estimates, which he believed would meet with the approval of the House generally; and, as there was no longer any necessity to appropriate any portion of this loan money for revenue purposes, the Government now proposed to proceed with the work to completion, as resolved by the Council a year or two ago. He thought the hon. member for Kimberley might rest assured that the address now before the House was no longer necessary.

MR. A. FORREST: Upon that assurance, I shall have much pleasure in withdrawing the motion.

MR. HENSMAN: Then I presume the matter will be brought before us in some other form?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): Certainly not. What for? The House has already approved of the work and of the proposed expenditure.

MR. HENSMAN said he had never been a party to this or any other diversion of loan money, nor should he ever become a party to such diversion. If, as he understood, this money which it was proposed to spend on this telegraph line was originally borrowed for another purpose, he should certainly support the hon. member for Carnarvon if he went to a division. He was quite aware that these loan moneys had been reappropriated and reappropriated again and again—or attempted to be. They were all aware that the Government came down to the House not long ago, and proposed to appropriate the balance of about £54,000, which had been borrowed by, and lent to, this colony to be expended on certain public works, and spend it as a portion of the general revenue to meet the ordinary expenditure of Government. The Colonial Secretary told them that evening that, when that proposal was made, there had been no adverse vote, but that the Government did what they always wished to do—bow to the decision of that House. The fact of the matter was, they found everyone was against their proposal, and they did a very commendable and a wise thing under the circumstances—they withdrew it. If they hadn't, he believed every elected member at any rate would have voted against it; but as they did not challenge a vote, no vote was taken. But he must say—and he stated it as his deliberate opinion—that where moneys were borrowed for specific purposes, which purposes were specified in the schedule of the loan bill authorising the money being raised, it was most wrong and immoral—he used the word in a political or parliamentary sense—to divert any portion of that loan money, and spend it in any other way. If they borrowed money for public works let it be spent on those works. It was wrong, and no one could defend it, to go and divert that money to meet any other expenditure; and if it be true that the money proposed to be spent on this telegraph line—

no matter how desirable it might be, to develop these goldfields—had not been borrowed for that purpose, he said it was not a diversion alone but a misappropriation. He was quite aware that the House had sanctioned it in other cases; but he had never been a party to it, nor would he be a party to it. Having stated his views on the subject, he had no wish to oppose the withdrawal of the motion.

MR. SHOLL: Nor have I; I only hope the Government will be out of office before they have time to go on with the work.

MR. MARMION said he would remind the hon. member for Carnarvon that he at any rate agreed to what the hon. member for Greenough was pleased to call misappropriation; for, when the proposal was made, the hon. member never said a solitary word against it, although he was a member of the House when the Misappropriation Bill (as the hon. member for Greenough would call it) was passed. As for the hon. member for Greenough, it was all very fine for the hon. member to say what he would or what he wouldn't have done. He would remind the hon. member that he did not occupy a seat in the House at the time. It was something new to him to hear the action of the House in the matter characterised as a "misappropriation" of public funds. He submitted there had been no misappropriation. He agreed it was better, as a rule, that loan money should be expended upon the particular works for which it was borrowed; but circumstances might arise in which it might be wise and expedient to make use of a portion of that money, temporarily, for another purpose, especially when the money so diverted was, as in this instance, so safeguarded that there was a clause in the Reappropriation Bill which provided that the money should be recouped out of the first money borrowed. He could not regard that as a "misappropriation" of borrowed money. As to this particular work, the Wyndham telegraph line, he felt bound to say this: had they had as much knowledge about Wyndham when the proposal was originally made as they had now, he should have opposed it. But having established a seat of Government there, and established a township there, and spent a lot of money there,

and established steam communication with the place, and opened up communication between it and the goldfields—having done all this, and the money for the work having been appropriated, and the material purchased, he thought it would be rather shabby, and that it would be unjust,—it might even be said to be a misappropriation of the money—if they were to expend it on any other work. He believed that, under all the circumstances, the Government were adopting the wisest and most proper course, in proceeding with the work.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

#### VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton), in moving the second reading of a bill to provide for the establishment, maintenance, and government of the Victoria Public Library, said it would be in the recollection of hon. members that in June last they celebrated, with feelings of heartfelt loyalty, the jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty's beneficent reign. There had been some difference of opinion at the time as to the best mode of carrying out that celebration, but it was finally resolved that, out of the sum of £5,000 voted by that House for the occasion, a sum of £2,000 should be appropriated as this colony's contribution towards the foundation and maintenance of the Imperial Institute, in London, and that the residue should be appropriated as a contribution towards the foundation of the Victoria Public Library in Perth. Pending the erection of the building designed for the Library, steps he believed had been taken for obtaining possession of rooms in the old W. A. Bank for the purposes in view. But the foundation stone of the Public Library itself had been laid; and, as it was desirable that the land upon which the building was to be erected, and which was now used as a school reserve, should be vested in trustees for the purposes of the Library, the present bill had been introduced. It was read a first time, when the House met in December last, and the second reading was postponed until the present adjourned session. He did not know that it was necessary for him to say anything further than that the bill followed the lines of the

Victorian Act, relating to the Melbourne Public Library. He only hoped that the little property which our own Library had would be increased by gifts and contributions from private citizens, so that the institution might in time become a credit to the colony.

On the motion of Mr. HENSMAN, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, March 16th, 1888.*

Steps for obtaining water supply at Yilgarn—Rolling stock and opening of Bunbury-Boyanup Railway—Returns of Railway Traffic—Water Supply for the town of Carnarvon—Message (No. 9): Forwarding despatch re Act of Council, No. 9 of 1887—Insufficiency of Harbor Master's staff at Albany—The Greenough Flats Disaster: Repair and construction of Roads—Estimates, 1888: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### STEPS FOR OBTAINING WATER SUPPLY AT YILGARN.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works what steps (if any) the Government proposed to take, with the object of obtaining a water supply in the vicinity of the Yilgarn hills?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied: The Government boring apparatus is all in readiness to start, and would have done so before this had it not been deemed expedient to obtain the coöperation of the Roads Boards most directly interested, of York, Northam, and Newcastle. As these, however, refused to have anything to do with it, the Govern-

ment will take the necessary steps at once to bore for water on the fields, and the men and materials will be sent up immediately.

### BUNBURY-BOYANUP RAILWAY: DATE OF OPENING.

MR. VENN, in accordance with notice asked the Commissioner of Railways:—

1. Whether the Plant and Rolling Stock for the first section of the Blackwood Railway has arrived at Bunbury.

2. Whether the same is being put together, and the date the Government intend to open the Railway for traffic—between Boyanup and Bunbury.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied:

1. The Plant and Rolling Stock has arrived.

2. It has not as yet been erected as, owing to the reductions in expenditure for the present year, it has been found impossible to open the Bunbury Railway. I hope, however, we may be enabled to do so in 1889, and in that case the rolling stock will be erected in readiness.

### RETURNS SHOWING RAILWAY TRAFFIC ON VARIOUS LINES.

MR. VENN, in pursuance of notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to lay upon the table of the House:—

1st. A return showing the goods and passenger traffic on Newcastle line of Railway, between Newcastle and Perth, from the opening of the Newcastle section to 1st March.

2nd. A return showing the goods and passenger traffic on the Beverley Branch of the Eastern Railway, between Beverley and Perth; the return not to include goods or traffic connected with the contractors of the Albany Railway.

3rd. Also a return showing goods and passenger traffic of the Railway from Geraldton to Walkaway, from date of opening to 1st March.

4th. Also a return showing traffic on the Cossack and Roebourne Tramway for 3 months ending 1st March.

5th. Also a return showing goods and passengers between Geraldton and Northampton for the 3 months ending 1st March.