

introducing the measure on the recommendation of a commission appointed to report on the subject, but if the House affirmed the amendment, he would offer no further opposition to the Bill being considered in Committee that day six months.

After some remarks from Mr. BIRCH and Mr. DEMPSTER, the amendment was affirmed, and the House resumed.

### POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS.

In Committee.

Mr. STEERE moved that the House go into Committee to consider the question of postage on newspapers. The Colonial Secretary and himself were the only persons present who were members of the Council when the newspaper postage was abolished some few years ago, and the proposal to do so had emanated from the Government. There was only one dissentient voice raised against the proposal, and the impost was abolished, under the belief that the free circulation of newspapers would have a beneficial tendency. Notwithstanding this, the Government had thought fit to reimpose the postage, and what he blamed them most for was the manner in which the reimposition was adopted, without in any way consulting the Legislature in the matter. In his financial statement last year the Colonial Secretary had distinctly informed the House that there would be no necessity to have recourse to any fresh taxation, and that all the extraordinary expenditure contemplated in connection with the Post Office Department would not exceed £72 10s., which, together with all other extraordinary expenditure, the House was informed over and over again would be met out of the current revenue of the colony, without necessitating one penny of extra taxation. Yet, in the face of this, and without any reference whatever to the Legislative Council, the Government had reimposed a tax upon newspapers. The financial statement was delivered in July or August, and the Government at that time must have been in possession of the facts which afterwards induced them to reimpose the postage fee. But, whether they were or not, he thought they were bound to consult the Legislature, and he did not think the excuse put forward by the Colonial Secretary the other evening was a satisfactory excuse, inasmuch as other matter—foreign to that for which the Council was specially convened, a few days before the postage was reimposed,—had been brought under the consideration of the House. The Council, notwithstanding the paucity of members in

attendance, was then asked to affirm a motion relating to the extension of the telegraph to Eucla, and it would have been but proper on the part of the Government if the question of the reimposition of postage upon newspapers, which they had then in contemplation, had also been submitted for the opinion of the Legislature. One good result, however, had attended the course pursued—the unholy alliance that existed between the Government and a certain local newspaper (cries of No, no, from the Government bench) had been abruptly terminated, and there was now one more public journal in the colony that expressed an independent opinion. He was quite certain that in the resolution he proposed to move, one member of the Government at least would be with him—the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, who it was understood was himself now part proprietor of a newspaper (laughter). The resolution he proposed to move was—That this Council regrets that the postage on newspapers was reimposed without its concurrence, and is of opinion that newspapers published in the colony should be allowed to circulate free.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake), as an amendment, moved the following resolution:—That newspapers printed in the colony may be posted in their place of publication for distribution in the colony, within one week from the day of publication, and not afterwards, gratis; that no such newspaper when once posted, or any newspaper printed out of the colony, be posted in the colony for distribution in or out of the colony, except on payment of 1d. for each newspaper; and that no postage be paid on foreign newspapers on their first receipt.

After a few words from Mr. BIRCH, the original motion was withdrawn, and the amendment was affirmed without a dissentient voice.

The Council adjourned at 10 p.m.

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### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Monday, 20th July, 1874.

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Immigration: select committee report—Transfer of Land Bill: select committee report—Perth City Council Bill: first reading—Conveyance of English and Colonial Mails.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.  
PRAYERS.

## IMMIGRATION.

## Select Committee Report.

Mr. BICKLEY brought up the report of the select committee appointed to take into consideration the best course to be adopted to encourage immigration, and to provide for a periodical supply of labor; and moved, that the same be read.

Question put and passed.

Report read, and ordered to be printed.

## TRANSFER OF LAND BILL.

## Select Committee Report.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) brought up the report of the select committee appointed to consider a Bill based on the principle of the Torrens Land Act; and moved, that the same be read.

Question put and passed.

Report read, and ordered to be printed.

## PERTH CITY COUNCIL BILL.

## First Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to extend the powers of the Perth City Council to construct a drain or conduit from Lake Kingsford to Claisebrook.

The Bill was read a first time.

## CONVEYANCE OF ENGLISH AND COLONIAL MAILS.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of the Council it would be conducive to the interests of the colony if arrangements were made for conveying the English and Colonial mails overland from Albany to Perth; and that the Government should endeavor to arrange with the agents or owners of the *Georgette* to confine her operations to the west coast of this colony, accepting a proportionate reduction in her subsidy." He thought the development of the trade and commerce of the colony ought to be studied equally as much as its postal arrangements and believed that the latter would not suffer from a reversion to the former system of conveying our extracolony mails overland, while, on the other hand, the coasting trade would be greatly benefited if the steamer were not, as at present, circumscribed and cramped in her movements through her postal engagements.

Mr. DEMPSTER seconded the resolution.

Mr. BICKLEY thought one of the main objects in establishing steam communication between Fremantle and the port of call of the English and Colonial mail steamers was to bring the colony into closer relation with England and the neighboring provinces by obviating the tedious, hazardous and expensive overland journey from Albany to our centres of population. The motion was suicidal to the best interests of the colony.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) concurred, and strongly opposed the resolution, and there was some further opposition from the SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser), Mr. CAREY, and other members.

Question put and negatived.

The Council adjourned at 7 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,  
Tuesday, 21st July, 1874.

Geraldton and Northampton Railway—Floating Dock at Fremantle—Jetty at Champion Bay: in committee—Railway to Eastern Districts Survey—Spanish Radish and Scotch Thistle Prevention Bill: first reading—Toodyay Mechanics' Institute: in committee—Transfer of Land Bill: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.  
PRAYERS.

## GERALDTON AND NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) informed the House that he had received a telegram from Melbourne stating that a contract had been entered into for the construction of the Geraldton and Northampton railway, and that the work would be proceeded with without delay.

## FLOATING DOCK AT FREMANTLE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid upon the Table of the House a communication from Messrs. J. & W. Bateman, Wm. Wanliss, and Connor & McKay, concerning the construction of a floating dock for the port of Fremantle; and moved, that the same be read.

The correspondence was read by the Clerk.