

swallowed up in actions for damages. It was said that there was a difficulty now in getting members to come forward for these boards; that difficulty would be largely augmented if they were to be held liable for damages. Under the ordinary law, a board was liable to be sued if there was a clear case of culpable negligence against them; but it would be very hard if they were to be held liable for every little accident, and regarded as legitimate objects for all sorts of speculative actions being brought against them.

MR. SCOTT thought the boards ought not to be exempted from the result of their own negligence. He had known broken culverts left open for weeks, to the imminent danger of passers by; and if anyone had fallen into these holes at night, the probability was they would have broken their necks. At other times they saw big logs of wood placed across roads, and left there for weeks, to the danger of every vehicle using the road. He thought there ought to be no protection for a board against such carelessness as this. The public had a right to be protected as well as these boards.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 23rd November, 1888.

W. H. Foster, mail driver—Estimates, 1889: further consideration in committee—Message (No. 19): Replying to Addresses—Goldfields Licensing Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

W. H. FOSTER, LATE MAIL DRIVER.

MR. SCOTT, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, whether W. H. Foster, who was recently a mail

driver in the Southern Service, was not a Police Constable, and therefore permanently in the Public Service?

2. If so, was not the said W. H. Foster entitled to some compensation for loss of appointment?

3. Did the Government intend to give him fresh employment, and when?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) replied: W. H. Foster was not a police constable in the ordinary sense, and was not permanently in the public service. In common with other mail coach drivers, similarly employed, he has no claim to compensation on discharge; his name has been noted for further employment, for which he has a claim, and which he will receive when an opportunity offers.

## ESTIMATES, 1889.

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

*Postal and Telegraph Department—*  
(adjourned debate):

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he was now able to give the committee some further information with reference to the conveyance of mails between Perth and Albany. He had seen the Postmaster General, and had been furnished by him with the correspondence that had taken place between him and the Managing Director of the railway company, and he would read the correspondence to hon. members. (Correspondence read.) Hon. members would see that the Postmaster General had done all he could to make the best terms he could for the colony, and the provisional agreement was subject to the approval of that House. He had also detailed particulars of the other items under the head of "Contingencies," which he would lay on the table, including the proposed arrangements for the mail services for the settlements on the Albany road.

MR. SHENTON said the explanation which had now been afforded was very satisfactory. It appeared the Postmaster General had taken a great deal of trouble in this matter, with the W.A. Land Co., and no doubt had made the best bargain he could for the colony. Not having this information before them yesterday, they were under the impression that £2,000

was a large amount for this service, but, in view of the correspondence now read, he did not think there was much to complain of; and, so far as he was concerned, he had pleasure in expressing his sense of approval of the way in which the Postmaster General had conducted these negotiations.

MR. HORGAN asked for some information as to the item "Special die and plates for postage stamps, £150."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the old ones were worn out, and it was necessary to replace them.

MR. HORGAN said that in England now the same stamp was used for revenue purposes as for postage, and he thought it would be very convenient to adopt the same plan here. He thought it would be very handy, especially in country places, where revenue stamps were not always obtainable.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said no doubt the arrangement in question answered very well in the old country, but here it was desirable to keep the two branches of revenue distinct. There would necessarily be confusion if the same stamps were used for revenue purposes and for postal purposes, and it would be impossible to say what each department produced in the way of receipts.

MR. SHENTON thought they might have the same die for penny stamps, for both revenue and postage. It would be necessary to have a different stamp for the higher rates of postage stamps, unless they adopted a universal rate. As to any confusion between the two departments, it would simply be a question of adjusting accounts.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said that an arrangement that answered very well in England would not necessarily suit this colony, and he doubted whether the proposal to use the same stamp for revenue purposes and for postage would answer here at all at present. This stamp duty was comparatively a new tax, and it was very desirable to ascertain what amount of revenue it yielded.

MR. PEARSE thought the suggestion of the hon. member for Perth (Mr. Horgan) a very good one, and he was sure it would be a great convenience to

the public if it could be adopted. It was well known now that the stamp duty was working very well, and he saw no necessity to keep the two classes of stamps under different heads, so far as the revenue was concerned. It all went into the same chest.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) thought it would be better if a resolution were tabled on the subject, so as to elicit the opinion of the House.

MR. SHENTON expressed his intention of doing so.

The departmental vote was then put and passed.

*Land Titles, Item £1,495 :*

Agreed to, without comment.

*Medical, Item £5,578 18s. :*

MR. SHENTON thought it was time the hospital at Guildford, which was only a relic of convict days, should be done away with, and the wages of a hospital orderly saved. Seeing the facilities there were now in the way of railway communication between Guildford and Perth, where they had the Colonial Hospital, he thought it was useless to keep up this old hospital at Guildford.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he would make a note of the hon. member's suggestion, and bring it under the notice of the Government.

MR. SCOTT said the matter had been brought under the notice of the Government often enough, and they must know there was no necessity for this hospital. If it was necessary to have a hospital at Guildford, a few minutes distance by rail from Perth, how much more necessary was it to have a hospital at a place like Carnarvon? How much more necessary was it to have a hospital at Fremantle?

MR. MORRISON said it was well known that the Colonial Hospital did not afford sufficient accommodation to those who were already sent there, and it would be a loss to Guildford if this local hospital were abolished. It appeared it only cost £36 a year.

MR. HORGAN, referring to item "Provisions, etc., in Hospitals, £3,000," said he had put a question at an early stage of the session as to the custom of certain high officials obtaining articles from the Colonial Hospital which they ought to get from the storekeeper, and he

got no answer except that the Colonial Secretary could hardly believe it. He might say now that he was informed by a former medical officer of that hospital, not now in the colony, that it was the practice in his time for very high officials, even the Governor, to get things out of that hospital that were not medicines, and that might have been had at any storekeeper in town. He called that a mean proceeding—he didn't care who the official was—to go to a public hospital and get things which you could get at a store. He was ready to depose to that fact upon oath, if necessary. [The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The hon. member himself says it is only hearsay.] The Government or the hospital authorities ought to supply them with a detailed account of these supplies, and how they were disposed of, so that it might be known who these officials were that did these mean things. Here was £3,000 put down for next year's supplies. [Mr. A. FORREST: £500 less than this year.] That was because of the question he put the other day. Then again there was £1,000 for medicines and surgical instruments, and another £200 for "incidental expenses." He really did not understand this item "incidental expenses," which was cropping up on every page of these Estimates. He had gone to the trouble of reckoning them up, and he found they amounted in the aggregate to £6,580. He thought it was only a kind of cloak or blind to cover the expenditure of money that might be looked upon as illegal expenditure—he didn't know; but he thought they ought to be supplied with an account.

MR. SHOLL said all he could say with regard to the remarks just made was that if the hon. member had been rightly informed—he could hardly imagine it to be the case himself—it was a most disgraceful state of affairs; and the officials connected with the Hospital must be to blame. This money was voted for provisions and supplies for the inmates, and it was the duty of the officials to see that it was properly expended. He did not believe himself that such a thing was done as the hon. member had been informed; but when an hon. member got up in his place and stated publicly that he had been informed by a former medical officer. [The ATTORNEY GENERAL:

AL: Who has gone away.] He did not suppose the hon. member would have made the statement unless he had been informed. It was really a most serious accusation to make against these officials, and he hoped some notice would be taken of it by the head of the Medical Department.

MR. A. FORREST thought the statement which had been made must have astonished hon. members. They could hardly believe that the Governor of the colony would apply to the Colonial Hospital for stores and provisions that he could get supplied with in the shops of the town. The statement had astonished him, and he hoped the Colonial Secretary would be able to give them some explanation.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): I can only say I do not believe it.

MR. A. FORREST thought some inquiry ought to be made. He did not know what the outside world would think of us, if they heard that our highest officials got their stores from the public hospital. The Government should either give the statement a flat denial, or admit there was a certain amount of truth in it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said, as he had been appealed to, he could only say he did not believe the statement for one moment. He thought the hon. member must have been gulled. As he had already said, the other day, it could only be done by collusion between three or four heads of departments, including His Excellency the Governor, the Auditor General, and the Colonial Surgeon, and it was monstrous to suppose for a moment that these officials would conspire together to do such a thing. It was too ridiculous for serious consideration. The hon. member had been imposed upon.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Harbor and Light*, Item £6,857:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he had been asked to move the following new item, in pursuance of a resolution brought forward by the hon. member for Sussex, and agreed to: "Mooring, etc., at Bunbury and Busselton, £200."

MR. SHOLL called attention to the item "Incidental Expenses," and said that a vote obtained last year, under the

head of fuel and oil, had been expended on something else, contrary to the provisions of the Audit Act; and this was one of the items to which he had expected the select committee on the Excess Bill to have called attention, if they had made a report.

MR. SHENTON said there was a large sum asked for "Beacons and buoys" without this extra vote, and he should like to know how it was proposed to spend the money.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) referred the hon. member to the report of the Chief Harbor Master. He was sure the hon. member would agree with him that Captain Russell was a man who would not put any sum on the Estimates that he did not consider necessary. While on this subject he might state that the Government were now considering a scheme for charging light and port dues at our Northern ports, the same as at Albany and Fremantle.

MR. SHOLL thought that before the Government talked about light dues at the North they ought to see to the requirements of the port of Carnarvon, and place a proper light on the jetty there, for the benefit of vessels coming in at night, so that they could keep the proper channel, as at present there was absolutely no guide to enable them to make that port at night. He had received no explanation as to the item of £150 which had been illegally spent out of the vote for fuel and oil. He thought it was most discreditable the way the Government had dealt with that item.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the Auditor General himself had supported them in that matter.

MR. SHOLL thought it was neither creditable to the Auditor General nor to the Government. He thought they had tried to hoodwink the House. He thought the Auditor General, the Treasurer, and the Colonial Secretary were all mixed up in it, and he was sorry the Excess Bill had been smuggled through as it had been, without the select committee's report.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): *They wouldn't report.*

The new item was put and passed.

*Administration of Justice, £39,512 10s.:*

MR. SHENTON asked why the salary for the clerk to the Fremantle Magistrates was put down at £200. The gentleman who held it, and who had recently died, had his salary increased to that amount on account of his long services; but this new officer was quite a junior.

MR. PARKER said the salary was not too large for a clerk of the Court in Fremantle, regard being had to the duties required of him. What he should like to see, however, was that when an office like this became vacant, the Government would appoint to it some clerk who had been in the service for some years, and was capable of filling it, instead of placing in it a junior of only four years' standing.

MR. SHENTON said the young officer in question had only been in the service four years, and could not be so well qualified to fill the office as those who had served longer. He considered it was one of those cases of favoritism, of which the Government were charged, and too often justly charged, with being guilty of.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) maintained that the officer appointed to the office was quite efficient, and denied that the Government had shown any favoritism. The hon. member who had said so ought to be ashamed of saying it.

MR. A. FORREST agreed with Mr. Shenton that this was a case of favoritism, and thought the thanks of the House were due to him for bringing it forward. He was very much surprised at the Colonial Secretary's language towards him.

MR. PEARSE thought the amount of the salary was not too large, so long as the duties were properly performed.

MR. MARMION spoke in eulogistic terms of the services of the late clerk of the Court, and said that in that gentleman's place had been placed a youngster, a mere youngster, simply because he happened to be a friend of the authorities. Hon. members might laugh, but it was no laughing matter, for the deceased gentleman had left a widow and family behind him, and his death was, no doubt, hastened by the miserable pittance bestowed on him. He was sorry that he who had gone before the young man now holding the position had not been treated so well as this fortunate youngster had been. It was a proof of the favoritism

shown by the Government, and he had seen many instances of it. It was not "glory be to him who deserved it," with the Government, but "glory be to him who is a friend of the powers that be." He was happy to think the time was approaching when he hoped it would no longer exist, and when deserving men would receive at the hands of the Ministry that promotion and justice to which they were entitled.

MR. CONGDON thought that it was only fair that the gentleman performing the same duties as the late clerk should receive the same salary.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) defended the Government against the charge of favoritism, and with regard to what had been said about the promotion of deserving civil servants, said very often when promotion was offered to them it was refused, as they had formed ties which bound them to the place where they lived. He pointed out that the officer in question had had experience, and urged that he having served in tropical parts of the colony—which was bad for the health—it was only right to give him a chance when it presented itself, of holding a position in the South.

MR. SHOLL expressed his approval of the principle which the Government seemed disposed to adopt, viz., of inducing young officials to go to the tropical part of the colony, by holding out to them the hope of promotion in its more temperate portion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said if young men who volunteered to go to Roebourne and the North were not to be rewarded for their self-sacrificing action they would not go. The Government had never shown favoritism [Mr. SHENTON: "Question, question."] The hon. member ought to be ashamed of himself.

MR. A. FORREST said the promotion of this officer was not fair to other officers. The fact of his having been recommended by his superior officer was nothing. He knew that when heads of departments found a young fellow not good enough, they tried to shunt him to another office.

MR. MARMION said this particular officer, at any rate, had been shunted to a position where he ought not to be. [An Hon. Member: Perhaps he is one of the

"six families."] No, he was not one of the six families; he was one of the seven. The Executive had put a round man in a square hole, or a square man in a round hole. He moved that the item be reduced by £25. The salary would then be what it was for many years in the time of the late clerk.

Motion negatived.

Vote—put and passed.

*Police*, Item £39,512 10s. read:

Question—put and passed.

*Gaols*, Item £14,598 read:

Question—put and passed.

*Rottneest Native Prison*, Item £3,572 10s. read:

Question—put and passed.

*Printing*, Item £3,571 17s. 6d. read:

Question—put and passed.

*Inspection of Stock*, Item £1,187 read:

MR. SHENTON asked where it was proposed to station these three inspectors?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the department had been reorganised, and provision had been made for three inspectors for next year, in the event of their services being required. The Chief Inspector would supervise the work generally; and one inspector would probably be for the Kimberley district, and two for the rest of the colony, south of that district.

MR. SHENTON thought the expenditure connected with this department ought to be brought within the amount of the sheep contribution, which was not more than £1,000 at present. He moved that the item be reduced by £187 so as to equalise it with the revenue received.

MR. A. FORREST hoped that next year this vote would be wiped out altogether, and the Government ought to reduce it as fast as they possibly could, for scab had now all but died out.

MR. HARPER thought it would be just as well if hon. members would bear in mind that, by the amended bill passed the other day, these sheep inspectors were now made inspectors of stock as well; and it might occur that some other disease than scab might break out. In fact, there was good reason to believe that at present pneumonia existed in the Kimberley district, and it might be necessary to take steps to prevent its spreading southwards. It was impossible to say at present—he was speaking now as a member of the Board of Advice—what

exact amount would be required for inspection of scab next year. The Champion Bay district could not be considered quite safe from scab, although none had been reported from the district for a considerable time past, and it was hoped it had been eradicated. But it would not be safe to assume it yet. During the course of the incoming year he thought it might be possible to reduce the staff, and so reduce the expenditure, but it would not be safe to assume that the amount here asked for would not be required.

THE HON. SIR J. G. LEE STEERE thought that three inspectors, in addition to the Chief Inspector, would be totally unnecessary. There was no scab at any rate in the South-West division of the colony, and, if it should break out in the Champion Bay district, the Chief Inspector could supervise that district. One inspector for Kimberley and one for the Gascoyne district, and a Chief Inspector, would be quite sufficient, he thought.

The motion to reduce the vote to £1,000 was agreed to.

*Educational*, Item £10,875 read:

MR. SCOTT asked why £150 had been put down for the High School scholarships, when the vote this year was only £100?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) was sorry to say that the attainments of the boys attending our lower schools had not been such as to enable them to avail themselves of these scholarships last year, and the scheme so far had not been attended with very encouraging results so far as candidates for scholarships were concerned. There ought to be six of these scholarships to be provided for now, which would have necessitated a vote of £300. It was hoped that next year the candidates would be more successful than in the past year, and this provision had been made in the event of the money being required.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Registry*, Item £380 read:

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

*Poor Relief*, Item £9,231 read:

MR. PARKER asked whether the Government had to draw upon this vote, some time ago, for assisting the unemployed?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that when, some time

ago, there were destitute persons amongst the unemployed, the Government had to draw upon the year's vote of £8,700 for "maintenance and relief to destitute." He could not say, at present, how much had been spent in that direction.

MR. PARKER said it was understood that money had even been expended in providing passages for numbers of the unemployed from this colony. He thought the time had arrived when the Government should cause it to be made known that relief would not be extended to the unemployed in our towns, but that they were expected to go forth into the country and obtain work.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he was glad to hear the hon. member echoing what he himself had said last year, and what he now desired to repeat. The passages alluded to had been granted to the wives of the laborers who had gone away to the other colonies to seek employment. He was quite of the same opinion as the hon. member that where unemployed artisans and mechanics could not obtain work in towns, it was their duty not to collect in the towns, but to go into the country and seek for work.

MR. MARMION said that many of the cases of destitution, especially as regarded women and children, had been unavoidable, and he thought the time had not arrived when hon. members should treat the unemployed in the harsh manner proposed. He hoped the time would shortly arrive when the present depressing state of things would be at an end, and when the Government and the colony would be in a position to provide work for all. He regretted that such a state of things had existed, but the Government should bear in mind that they were told some time ago it would be the case, unless they inaugurated a policy of public works.

MR. PARKER said he had not referred to women or children, but that his remarks particularly applied to the inadvisability—both on account of the colony and the individual himself—to keep a man in the colony who could not get work.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Aborigines*, Item £2,700 read:

Question—put and passed.

*Government Storekeeper*, Item £974 10s. read :

Question—put and passed.

*Government Gardens*, Item £430 read :

Question—put and passed.

*Volunteers*, Item £3,669 10s. read :

MR. A. FORREST said that last year he voted that this item be thrown out ; but he saw it was growing bigger, although it was a well known fact that in the country districts these Volunteer corps were dying a natural death. We were not a warlike people, but a peaceable people, and he did not see what we wanted with these soldiers of ours. He noticed that about one-fourth of the whole vote went to pay two officers, the Commandant and the Drill Instructor. He thought that was ridiculous. If we wanted to keep up this force at all, the proper way would be to vote a lump sum, as was done a few years ago with the police, and let them do the best they could with it. He should prefer to see the whole vote struck out, and the money spent on the roads.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the vote for next year was identically the same as for the current year, with the exception of a larger sum for small arms ammunition. But all this came back to the revenue, except the regulation issue.

MR. HORGAN said he felt inclined to vote against the whole item. The only thing he saw about it that was of any use at all was the Bands. We were not likely to be invaded by a hostile force, and, if we were, we should all turn out. He thought that in the present financial position of the colony this was an enormous expense to put the country to, for what he might call toy soldiery.

MR. MARMION would be sorry to see the vote reduced. Having himself been a "toy soldier" (as the hon. member called them) he could speak from experience of the value of this Volunteer movement, for training our young men in habits of discipline and military exercise. In all the other colonies, these corps were very popular, and the day would come—and perhaps it was not very far off—when there will be a federated Australia and perhaps a federal military force ; and he hoped to see the day when the Volunteers of this colony, connected by railway with the other colonies, will be able to

join with the Volunteers of those colonies in a grand Volunteer encampment. There was no other part of Australia where the Volunteer force was maintained so cheaply as in this colony, and he should be sorry to see this vote interfered with.

MR. SHOLL said that last year he said a great deal about this vote, and the manner in which it had been expended ; and he would only say now that he hoped there would be no diversion of the Easter Encampment grant this year, and that if there was no encampment there would be no expenditure.

MR. SHENTON said the site selected for the Easter Encampment last year (Green Mount) was a very inconvenient one for the public to witness it, and he hoped that the next one would be held somewhere where people could see it. He did not think they could get a better place than Bullen's.

MR. PARKER agreed to some extent with the hon. and learned member for Perth, as to the importance and value of the Bands, in connection with this Volunteer movement. There was one Band, in particular—the Fremantle fife and drum band—which he thought would prove a most valuable auxiliary to the local army in the event of an invasion. All that would be necessary would be to place that band of juvenile performers on the jetty, and tell them to play up, and he ventured to say their performance would scare away the most redoubtable enemy.

MR. RICHARDSON would prefer seeing the money now devoted to Easter Encampments—which he looked upon as a sham—applied to encouraging rifle practice, and in sending a Western Australian team of riflemen to the other colonies. He moved that the item, "Easter Encampment, £250," be struck out.

MR. MARMION said if the Easter Encampment was a sham, the whole system was a sham. He considered the lessons taught at these annual camp exercises were among the most practical lessons which our citizen soldiers obtained.

MR. SHOLL said he agreed with the hon. member for the North in preferring to see this Encampment money devoted to sending a team of local riflemen to the other colonies, where, he believed, they would give a very good account of themselves, and do credit to the colony.

MR. KEANE thought these Easter reviews were among the most popular attractions of the force, not only here but in all parts of the world, and he thought it was only just to the Volunteers themselves that they should have this annual outing, in which they could all take part.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said, as to the best site for holding these encampments, he had seen some very disorderly and unsoldierly scenes when the encampment was held at Bullen's, owing to the proximity of the public house, and the facilities for obtaining drink. But he believed things had changed for the better under a more recent *régime*. He thought, however, that Easter was a bad time of the year for holding these outdoor encampments, and that it would be better if they could be arranged to be held about September or October, when the weather was more suitable.

The motion to strike out the item "Easter Encampment, £250" was negatived, on the voices; and the vote put and passed.

*Mining*, Item £2,180 read:

Question—put and passed.

*Special Coast Survey*, Item £3,000 read:

Question—put and passed.

*Works and Buildings*, Item £13,600 read:

MR. KEANE moved that progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Question—put and passed.

Progress reported.

#### MESSAGE (No. 9): REPLYING TO ADDRESSES.

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

"The Governor has the honor to return the following replies to Addresses received from Your Honorable House during the present Session:—

"No. 2, dated 17th October, 1888—

"Increase of Road Vote for 1889.

"The Council will observe, from the Estimates now under discussion, that this request has been complied with.

"No. 4, dated 26th October, 1888—

"Boring for Water.

"It is proposed to make provision for this service on the Loan Estimates for 1889.

"No. 6, dated 30th October, 1888—  
"Disease in Cattle.

"No. 8, dated 5th November, 1888—  
"Beverley-Albany Railway lands.

"No. 12, dated 14th November, 1888—Free lease to Mr. J. G. Poulton.

"No. 13, dated 16th November, 1888—Pearl Shell Fishery: Federal Bill.

"No. 14, dated 19th November, 1888—Conference respecting defence of King George's Sound.

"No. 15, dated 19th November, 1888—Power to re-open streets.

"Action will be taken in accordance with these Addresses.

"Government House, 23rd November, 1888."

#### GOLDFIELDS LICENSING BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 26th November, 1888.

Petition: Bayswater-Busselton Railway—Water-boring machines—Railway and Tramway Bills: New Standing Orders—Wharf accommodation and Water Supply at Wyndham—Message (No. 10): Assenting to Bills—Examination of Coal Measures at Fitzgerald River by Government Geologist—Cemetery (Closure) Bill: first reading—Railway Act, 1878, Amendment (Closure of Streets) Bill: first reading—Estimates, 1889: further consideration—Law of Distress Amendment Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PETITION FROM CANNING RESIDENTS RE BAYSWATER-BUSSELTON RAILWAY.

MR. PARKER presented a petition signed by 95 residents of the Canning district with reference to the construction