

not be contended that a reduction of one shilling per ton was going to make or mar any industry; and he thought, in order to have the matter further inquired into, it would be desirable to report progress. No one was more desirous than he was to give the North every consideration, even in the matter of this railway. [Mr. CROWTHER: Question.] The hon. member might question it, but it was a fact.

MR. S. H. PARKER said, as to the railway policy enunciated by the Engineer-in-Chief, no one could doubt that the policy of this colony, and of every new country, in building railways was, not that the railways should yield a direct profit, but that they should contribute to the development of the country, and in that way prove a source of indirect profit to the colony at large. The lesson which it appeared to him was to be drawn from this Northern Railway was that care should be taken, in building any new railways, that they should only be built in those parts of the colony where they might be reckoned upon to open up the country and induce settlement. That was not the principle, unfortunately, upon which this Northern line was built. It was built in order to encourage and stimulate a particular industry, and not to induce a settlement of the land and the cultivation of the soil; and he could not help thinking that was a mistaken policy. Certainly things had altered for the worse since the line was built, and, so far as he was concerned, if this assimilation and reduction of rates would promote the production of one single extra ton of lead, he should vote for the proposed reduction.

On the motion of Mr. MARMION progress was then reported, leave being given to sit again another day.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUGAR INDUSTRY (MESSAGE No. 8).

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that the recommendations of the select committee appointed to consider and report upon a proposed scheme for the establishment of the sugar industry in our northern territory—submitted to the House by His Excellency the Governor in his Message (No. 8)—be adopted. The committee recommended that the projector of the scheme, Mr. Geo. Smith,

a Queensland planter, be offered a free grant of 100,000 acres of land in the Kimberley district, in one block, on condition that £100,000 be spent in the prosecution of the sugar industry in connection with the land in question within five years, and that one thousand white people be settled on the land within that period. There were other conditions attached, which the committee recommended for adoption.

The recommendations of the committee were agreed to *sub silentio*.

The House adjourned at half-past ten o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 18th August, 1885.

Petition (No. 5): Concessions under proposed new Land Regulations—Conservation of Pearling Banks—Survey of Telegraph Line to Derby—Removal of Lockville Post Office—Reports of Debates in Council: motion for select committee—Amendment of Immigration Regulations—Water-boring, Eucla District (Message No. 9): adjourned debate—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

PETITION (No. 5): PRAYING FOR CONCESSIONS UNDER NEW LAND REGULATIONS.

Mr. HARPER presented a petition from certain settlers living eastward of York, praying for certain concessions under the new Land Regulations.

The petition was received and read.

CONSERVATION OF PEARLING BANKS.

Mr. McRAE asked the Colonial Secretary whether it is the intention of the Government to close any more pearling banks on the North-West coast? A few years ago several of the banks were closed for shelling, but most of them had

since been opened again, this year; and he thought, if it was the intention of the Government to continue the system of preserving the banks, steps should be taken at once to have more banks closed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said if the hon. member would call upon him at his office he would confer with him as to what had best be done in the matter.

SURVEY OF DERBY TELEGRAPH LINE.

MR. McRAE asked the Director of Public Works whether it was the intention of the Government to have the Roebourne and Derby telegraph line surveyed before calling for tenders for the construction of the work? The hon. member said that the fact of the line at present in course of construction, from Northampton to Roebourne, not having been surveyed before the work was tendered for, had made a difference to the Government of thousands of pounds. Had the line been surveyed beforehand, he was sure the cost of the line would have been much less, and the deviation at the Fortescue would have been avoided, which itself cost the country some £3,000 or £4,000. If it was intended to carry on the line to Derby, the same thing he was pretty certain would occur again. If the line were surveyed and a well-ascertained route laid out, he fancied the tenders for the construction of the work would be much lower than they otherwise would be.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that from all he had been able to ascertain of the country between Roebourne and Derby, he should say it was hardly necessary to have the line surveyed before calling for tenders,—the more so as it would considerably delay the execution of the work.

MR. McRAE said that within a radius of ten miles from the coast there existed a plain, running a distance of some 150 or 200 miles, whereas within about five or six miles of the coast the country consisted of pindan thicket, and it would cost thousands of pounds less to take the line along the plain than through this pindan country.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that

any information which the hon. member, or any other hon. member, could furnish the Government with on the subject would be gladly received, before proceeding any further with the work.

LOCKEVILLE POST OFFICE.

MR. LAYMAN again called the attention of the Government to the desirability of removing the site of the Lockeville Post Office to a more convenient locality.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the question was a purely departmental one, and the hon. member had better see the Postmaster General on the subject.

MR. LAYMAN said he had already seen Mr. Helmich, who although a very estimable old gentleman was still one of the olden school, and it was very hard indeed to move him.

REPORTS OF THE DEBATES.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, a select committee, consisting of Mr. Brown, Mr. Parker, Mr. Marmion, Mr. Steere, and the Mover, was appointed to consider certain questions in connection with the production of the reports of the debates, in the Legislative Council.

AMENDED IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in asking the House to approve of the amended regulations formulated by the Board of Immigration, said this question of immigration was a question of vital importance to the colony, and he assured hon. members that it was viewed in that light by the Board, who were not at all that sleepy body of gentlemen which some people considered them to be. The existing regulations had been in force about a year and a half, and the Board had not been disposed to make any rash alteration in a system which had met with approval at the hands of the Governor and of the Council, until the system had at any rate had a year's trial. The result of the year's work was now before hon. members. The Board had seen of late the desirability of amending the regulations, and of adding to them, and the result of their deliberations was embodied in the pro-

posals now before the House. Perhaps it would not be out of place if he were to refer to the character of these proposals. They recommended in the first place that the present system of nominating immigrants be continued and developed, and he might say liberalised with regard to the treatment of that class of immigrants—liberalised not only as regards their conveyance, when the occasion arose for it, to the port of shipment in England, but also as regards their deportation to their destination on their arrival in the colony, either to their friends or to their employers. The Board did not go so far as to advise that they should be carried to the very doors or the homesteads of their friends, but that they should be conveyed, free of cost, by sea or rail, as the case might be, to the district where they wished to go or were to be employed. Outside and beyond that, the Board proposed that there shall be a number of able-bodied immigrants selected by the Agency at home, and sent out here on the same terms and conditions (so far as having free passages was concerned) as nominated immigrants, in order to make up any deficiency that may occur in the number of nominated immigrants. The Board also recommended, and he was sure the recommendation would meet with general approval, that there should be a suitable receiving house or home provided at the principal ports of the colony for immigrants on their arrival, so that all new-comers when landed should be suitably accommodated, if they had no friends to receive them, and that they should be there maintained until they obtained suitable employment or could be forwarded to their destination. All these proposals had not been advised by the Board on the spur of the moment; the Board, in fact, had been considering them he might say ever since the Board was first instituted, but they had deferred arriving at any conclusion on the subject until they saw how the existing regulations worked. Incidentally he might say that His Excellency the Governor had approved of the Board's proposals, otherwise they would not be before the House. He believed himself that hon. members generally would agree that we ought to do all within our power, consistent with our means, to induce a desirable class of people to come to the colony. While on

this subject, he should like to draw attention to the concluding paragraph of the Board's proposals, as there appeared to be some misunderstanding about it, outside the Council. The paragraph said: "It is estimated that the cost of bringing out and distributing the immigrants referred to will require that the immigration fund be supplemented by a further sum of £10,000 (as shown in the accompanying statement). The balance at this date (July, 1885) may be estimated, after meeting all possible claims, etc., at £12,000; and the cost of introducing 1,000 statute adults, with all charges connected with their settlement, including the establishment of an immigrants' home, transport, etc., may be accepted at not much less than £22,000." An idea seemed to be prevalent that necessarily every adult brought out under this system would cost the Government £22. Such was not the case. The intention of the Board was to exercise all economy, as it had done in the past. Everything done by the Board in the past had been done in a way consistent with ensuring good and efficient arrangements upon the most economical plan, and the Board would pursue the same course in the future. But the Board would necessarily be put to considerable expense in connection with the establishment of the proposed homes or receiving houses. The buildings necessary might be obtained from the Government, out of some of the Imperial buildings which would probably pass into their possession shortly; but still the Board would have to be under considerable expense in furnishing and fitting out these homes in a way that would throw no discredit upon the colony. Immigrants arriving here in necessitous circumstances, and without friends or ties of any kind, should be able to see that the temporary home provided for them did not present the aspect of either a prison or a workhouse; and the intention of the Board was that these homes shall be so fitted and provided that immigrants on their landing shall feel that they were not regarded as so many prisoners or paupers. The Board, instead of doing what they might have done—state that their intention was to bring out 1,000 adult immigrants at a cost of £15 a piece, and leave the question of incidental expenditure to be settled

as the Board might think proper—came boldly forward, and expressed what their intentions were, with regard to providing these establishments, and what they thought the whole cost would be. The Board considered that it would be impossible to carry out all these improvements in the way in which they should like to see them carried out, and also distribute the immigrants on their arrival, with all charges connected with their transport and settlement,—the Board thought they could not do all this without an additional £10,000, beyond the balance of £12,000 remaining on hand from last year. He was prepared to deal with these proposals in any way which the House pleased, either submitting them *seriatim*, or deal with them in the lump. In the meantime he begged to move the resolution standing in his name—"That this Council generally approves of the amended and additional immigration regulations embodied in the proposals of the Board of Immigration, provided that the funds necessary to carry them out are obtainable."

MR. SHENTON thought the proposals would in a great measure if not altogether remove all causes of complaint against the working of the present system of immigration. Complaints were now frequently made by persons nominating friends in England, or Scotland, or Ireland, not being able to pay for their transport to London, the port of shipment; and complaints were also made because they had to pay the expense of conveying their friends to their destination, perhaps a long distance by land or sea, after their arrival in the colony. These proposals would remove all these difficulties and drawbacks to the present system. He also thought that one of the most important proposals towards making our immigration system a success was the scheme for providing some temporary home where immigrants may be received on landing. At present no such provision was made, and much inconvenience and dissatisfaction was the result. He might state as one of the members of the Commission appointed to deal with the question of the transfer of the Imperial Establishment, that it had occurred to the Commission that at Fremantle there was a building admirably adapted for this purpose—the old bar-

racks of the Royal Engineers, which, at a very little cost, might be converted into a first class receiving house for immigrants. At Champion Bay, too, there was another building that would meet all the requirements of that district, namely, the old Pensioners' Barracks. In Albany no difficulty was likely to occur with reference to the establishment of a receiving house, owing to the more frequent means of communication with that port and the improbability of any large number of immigrants going there. He thought the sooner these proposals of the Board were acted upon the better. We were now about to inaugurate an extensive system of public works, which would absorb all the available labor in the colony, and, unless the gap be filled, the operations of the country settlers would be completely paralysed. He thought the House should immediately place the Board in such a position, financially, that they may be able to introduce 1000 immigrants into the colony before the end of 1886.

MR. BROWN said it would be seen that selected immigrants—eligible adult immigrants selected by the Crown Agents at home—were to be placed on a somewhat different footing from nominated immigrants, as regards the accommodation to be provided for them on their arrival, and the payment of their passages or fares to any part of the colony after their arrival. The Board felt that a distinction ought to be made between persons coming out here to their friends and who had been nominated by those friends, and people who came out here utter strangers.

MR. WITTENOOM was extremely sorry to hear that nominated immigrants were not to have the same privileges as selected immigrants. To the people of Fremantle or Perth this would be no hardship, for those immigrants would be landed at their friends' doors—at the doors of those who nominated them—without any extra expense; whereas the people of Geraldton and other distant parts of the colony would have to pay the passage of their nominated immigrants from Fremantle. He thought this most unfair. The whole colony contributed to this immigration fund, and why should not every district in the colony be placed on the same footing as regards receiving its immigrants?

MR. VENN said it was understood last year that corresponding members of the Board should be appointed in country districts, and he thought it was much to be regretted that no such appointments had been made. He was sure that there would have been many more immigrants nominated if there had been country agents or corresponding members of the Board appointed, so as to give people the necessary information.

MR. BURGESS strongly urged the necessity for the appointment of an Immigration Agent in England, conversant with the requirements and conditions of the colony. That was the original intention of the Governor when he brought forward his immigration scheme, and he thought it had been a great loss to the colony that the idea was not carried out. We were incurring a large amount of expenditure in connection with our immigration system, but it was not doing that amount of good which we ought to derive from it, simply because we had no one at home to look after the interests of the colony and to see that we obtained the right class of immigrants. A great many unsuitable immigrants had been sent out. He generally approved of the Board's proposals, with the exception already referred to. He thought it was very hard that because people happened to live at Geraldton, or Albany, or Roebourne they should be put to the expense of paying the passages of their nominated immigrants from Fremantle, whereas the residents of Perth and Fremantle were put to no such extra expense. The passages of these immigrants would in some instances amount to £5 or £6—or even more in the case of families—and he thought this would debar many people from nominating immigrants at all.

MR. STEERE pointed out that if there had been any unsuitable immigrants brought into the colony since the present system of immigration was adopted, it was not the fault of the Crown Agents, but the fault of those who had nominated such immigrants, for the only class of immigrants who had been introduced under the existing system were nominated immigrants, whom the Crown Agents were bound to send out when nominated. With reference to the proposal as to the other class of immi-

grants—immigrants specially selected by the colony's immigration agents in England—he was not going to say at present whether he considered it advisable or not. But it had not been tried yet, and until we saw whether under this system the Crown Agents sent us out suitable immigrants or not, he thought the question of the appointment of an Immigration Agent of our own might remain in abeyance. He agreed with what had been said by the hon. member for Wellington as to the desirability of appointing country gentlemen as corresponding members of the Board; and he also was in accord with the hon. member for Geraldton, that there should be no distinction made between selected immigrants and nominated immigrants on their arrival. He thought that persons living away from Perth or Fremantle should be placed in the same position and afforded the same facilities for obtaining immigrants as those who resided at or near those towns. Why should those who lived at Roebourne, or Albany, or Bunbury be handicapped by having to pay the expenses of their nominated friends to those places, when the mere accident of a person living at Fremantle enabled him to have his friends brought to his very door free of any expense whatever? With this exception he entirely approved of the proposals of the Board, and he only hoped they would be carried out as soon as practicable, and that the Board would lose no time in sending instructions to their agent to despatch the first shipment of 150 selected immigrants as soon as possible.

MR. MARMION said reference had been made to the desirability of establishing immigrants' homes at the various seaports of the colony, as well as at Fremantle or Perth. He thought if hon. members only looked at such a proposal from a business point of view they would see how impracticable it was to have these homes scattered all over the colony. Supposing a hundred adult immigrants, of the selected class, and of various trades and callings, arrived at Fremantle tomorrow, he should like to know—apart from the expense of keeping up different establishments—how these immigrants were to be distributed among the various district homes with any regard to the particular requirements of each district. They

might consist of tailors, masons, carpenters, shepherds, and what not; and, without a very elaborate system of agencies, the probability was that carpenters would be sent to the district that wanted masons, or tailors to the district that wanted shepherds. Viewed from a practical point of view, he thought the proper thing was to have one central Home, and let those who wished to hire immigrants employ somebody to do so for them. This done, the immigrant would be sent to his destination free of cost. With regard to the appointment of an Immigration Agent in England, no doubt such an appointment might be considered advisable; but he thought himself that we might continue for the present to employ the Crown Agents, or possibly have a travelling agent at home acquainted with the requirements of the colony to act in conjunction with the Crown Agents. It had been said that no distinction should be made between the treatment of selected immigrants and nominated immigrants after their arrival in the colony. The reason why the Board suggested this distinction was this: nominated immigrants were introduced solely for the use and benefit of the persons nominating them, whereas selected immigrants were brought out as it were for the use and benefit of the general community. Their services would be available to anybody who chose to hire them, in any part of the colony.

MR. CROWTHER thought we had a very desirable class of immigrants much nearer our own door than Europe. If we only turned our attention to South Australia, at the present moment, he thought that colony would be glad indeed to supply us with as many immigrants as we wanted, and he saw no reason why we should not recruit our labor market from colonial sources. [MR. RANDELL: Two could play at that game.] No doubt two could play at that game. The other colonies had been playing at it long enough, attracting immigrants from this colony, and why should not Western Australia now have an innings? There would be this additional advantage in having our immigrants direct from the "other side" rather than from Europe: these people would have seen what the other colonies were like, and would not be

consumed with a burning desire to leave us, in order to try their fortunes in those colonies. As to the distinction proposed to be drawn between selected immigrants and nominated immigrants—the friends of the latter having to pay their expenses from Fremantle to their destination, whereas the former were to be sent to their destination at public expense—and also the suggestion that there should be but one central Home, and that at Fremantle, the hon. member for Fremantle seemed to look upon that town as the hub of the universe. He thought, so long as we adopted a free system of immigration, that people who nominated immigrants, whether they lived at the North or the South, the East or the West, should have those immigrants delivered at their destination. Why should other parts of the colony be handicapped in favor of Fremantle and Perth? The whole colony contributed towards the cost of bringing out these immigrants, and why should not the whole colony benefit alike in this respect? In order to have this matter thoroughly threshed out he would move the Speaker out of the chair, so that these proposals might be considered in committee.

The motion was put and carried.

IN COMMITTEE:

MR. STEERE, referring to the 4th proposal "That steerage passages by steamer, or free passes by railway, should be provided for selected immigrants, when engaged, to enable them to proceed to the districts of their employers"—moved, as an amendment, the insertion of additional words to the effect that the same provision be extended to nominated immigrants.

MR. VENN supported the amendment. These nominations were generally made by the working classes and people who could ill afford to pay the expenses of their friends from Fremantle to their destination.

MR. LOTON said the Board of Immigration, of which he was a member, had had this matter under their special consideration, and discussed it most fully, and the view which the Board took of it was this,—that the colony at large would not derive as much benefit from the introduction of nominated immigrants as the introduction of an eligible class of

selected immigrants. Not only did the former come out to their friends, and, as a rule, were not available for hire, but the class of immigrants who came out as nominated immigrants embraced all ages, and whole families, a considerable proportion of whom would not contribute anything towards increasing the general labor supply of the colony. On the other hand, selected immigrants would not only be persons all of whom would supply a want in the labor market, but they would be open for hire by anybody who chose to do so. Obviously, therefore, there was reason why a distinction should be made in connection with the expense which the colony ought to incur in dealing with these two different classes of immigrants after they landed in the colony. Of course, it was just a question of expense. If the same liberality were to be shown to all classes of immigrants, the increased cost to the colony would in many cases be as much as from £6 to £10 for every immigrant introduced,—for, once they admitted the principle, the nominated immigrants would have to be sent to all parts of the colony, to Kimberley as well as Bunbury, and the passages of whole families, children and all, would have to be paid.

MR. WITTENOOM said, if the proposal of the Board was going to be carried, he could hardly conceive that anybody, in the country, would be so foolish as to nominate immigrants, when they could get selected immigrants delivered at their doors free of expense.

MR. BROWN said that would be all very well, if all that people who nominated immigrants wanted was labor. These immigrants, generally speaking, were friends or relatives of the persons nominating them, and connected with them perhaps by domestic ties.

MR. BURGESS thought no distinction should be made between the two classes of immigrants. They were all brought out for the good of the colony, and he thought they should all have the same privileges.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) pointed out that there was this difference between the two classes of immigrants: with regard to selected immigrants they were brought out for the benefit of the general public, and the Government undertook to find employ-

ment for them in whatever part of the colony such employment could be obtained; whereas, with regard to immigrants nominated by their friends, these people were brought out on an entirely different footing. Large families were brought out under the latter system, which the Board would hesitate to bring out at all under a system of selection, and, once these people were brought into the colony to their friends, he thought the Government had done their duty towards them and towards those who had nominated them. He saw no reason why we should burden the State with any additional expense in connection with them. They came out to their friends, and their friends as a rule were quite capable of looking after them, otherwise they had no right to nominate them. He hoped the hon. member would not push his amendment to a division, for he had no doubt all the members of the Board would adhere to their own recommendation, and he believed the majority of other hon. members would also support the Board. Should it prove, after a year's trial, that the system required further enlargement or amendment, he was sure he might say on the part of the Board that the matter would receive their careful consideration.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said a suggestion had been made to introduce immigrants from the other colonies. He thought that would be most unfair towards those colonies, and, if those colonies were to turn the tables upon us, they would soon clear us out of all the immigrants we would be able to introduce. As to one part of the colony being more advantageously placed than other parts as regards obtaining immigrants, that was sure to happen in connection with every arrangement made in this world—some people were sure to receive more benefit from it than others. As to the suggestion that there should be an immigration dépôt at every port in the colony,—if they were to agree to that, they would next have every inland town wanting a dépôt of its own. He thought such a proposal was quite out of the question. It must be remembered that we were not wholly dependent upon the Immigration Board in the matter of introducing immigrants into the colony;

we expected a large accession of population from other sources. Mr. Hordern, he hoped, would soon be sending out his thousand a year. (Mr. STEERE: Query.)

MR. RANDELL thought there were arguments worthy of consideration on both sides of this question,—arguments which presented themselves to his mind with considerable force. He believed he was the first to propose that immigrants should be forwarded, after landing, to their friends in various parts of the colony. He thought it was a simple act of justice to persons living in the country, that they should have their friends sent on to them. But he thought now that the Board had made out a good case why there should be a distinction; and, if the House insisted upon incurring the additional expense of paying the passages or fares of both classes of immigrants, to all parts of the colony, of course a further burden would be thrown upon the shoulders of the Board, and it would have to exercise more care as regards nominations in the future than in the past, otherwise they would find that the colony would be put to a very large expense and derive very little advantage from it.

MR. GRANT said, with regard to introducing immigrants from the other colonies, he did not see why we should have the least compunction upon that score. It was well known that some of the other colonies were over-burdened with immigrants, and they would be glad to get rid of them. He did not think there was much likelihood of their playing the game of "tit for tat" with us. It was very clear that if we went to the other colonies instead of to England for our immigrants, we would be able, so far as the expense was concerned, to introduce five immigrants from the other colonies for every single immigrant introduced from England. In South Australia at the present moment they were obliged to provide relief works for these people, the labor market being over-crowded, and no doubt the South Australian Government would only be too glad if we took a shipload of them off their hands. These colonial laborers would be a far more useful class than English laborers, being accustomed to colonial life and colonial work; and he hoped the Government would not be

deterred by any foolish squeamishness from endeavoring to introduce a desirable class of immigrants from the overflowing markets of the Eastern colonies.

MR. HARPER said that speaking as a member of the Board the question presented itself to him in a somewhat different light from that in which it had been regarded by some hon. members. It appeared to him that the question which some hon. members had principally addressed themselves to, was, whether or not we should accept a further burden in undertaking to convey nominated immigrants to their friends; but it seemed to him that the real question was this—should we further curtail the introduction of immigrants into the colony? Ought we to get the greatest number of immigrants we could into the country, or ought we by incurring further liabilities restrict the number we might otherwise be able to introduce? He thought, so far as the Board was concerned, that they would have no objection to the amendment, so long as hon. members saw clearly the position they were taking up, in thus restricting the number of immigrants which the Board would be able to introduce. Of course, if the House went still further and insisted upon having depôts in every district, that would still further trench upon the funds at the Board's disposal, and consequently further limit the number of immigrants which they would be able to introduce. If the House preferred to put up with a smaller number of immigrants in order to gratify the desire of those who chose to send for their friends, there was nothing left for the Board but to accept the situation, as they found it.

MR. STEERE did not anticipate that the extra expense of forwarding nominated immigrants to their destinations would be very great. They might probably reckon upon 400 immigrants being nominated next year, of which in all likelihood fully one-half would be nominated by people living at Perth and Fremantle, or in the immediate neighborhood, thus leaving only 200 to be forwarded to other parts of the colony. Probably not more than a hundred of these would have to be sent by sea; the remainder would probably be sent to the Eastern Districts. He believed the cost of a steerage passage to Geraldton was

only 30s., and to Bunbury not more than 15s.; so that he thought this little extra expense would not very much restrict the number of immigrants that might be introduced. As to depôts or receiving houses, he did not consider we ought to think of having depôts at every port. The Board, he observed, only contemplated the establishment of one receiving depôt, and that was at Fremantle: it did not mention Champion Bay at all. He thought the members of the Board might congratulate themselves upon the fact that their recommendations were so generally approved, and he thought they would be doing a graceful thing to give way on this one point. The Colonial Secretary told them it was no use their opposing the recommendations of the Board—that the Board would stick to their report and carry it. That proved to his mind how impolitic it was to have so many members of this Board also members of that House, the result being that they could carry almost any point they determined upon when sitting as a Board.

MR. HARPER said it was the Colonial Secretary alone, of all the members of the Board, who had made the statement referred to. He (Mr. Harper) himself distinctly stated that for his own part—and he believed he expressed the sentiments of the other members of the Board—he was quite prepared to accept the amendment, so long as the House realised the position in which it was placing the Board. He thought the calculations of the hon. member, Mr. Steere, were subject to a considerable amount of revision. The hon. member simply calculated the passage money from one port to another, forgetting that it would often be necessary to keep these immigrants for a week or a fortnight at the expense of the country, until an opportunity offered for forwarding them to their destination.

MR. STEERE said the hon. member evidently did not understand the terms of his amendment, which simply applied to the passages or fares of these immigrants.

MR. MARMION said that to his mind there was a clear distinction between the two classes of immigrants. One was a system of assisted immigration, while the other was a system of free immigration, the

State, as regards those introduced under the latter system, standing *in loco parentis*. He did not think any member of the Board of Immigration had the slightest desire to oppose the views of the members of that House, except so far as they considered it would be unwise to adopt this suggestion, and it must be admitted that the members of the Board had had ample opportunity of weighing the *pros* and the *cons* of the question.

The amendment submitted by Mr. STEERE was then put and passed.

Upon the question being put, that the resolution as amended be adopted, the committee divided, with the following result,—

Ayes	7
Noes	10
Majority against ...			3

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Burges	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Crowther	Mr. Brockman
Mr. Grant	Mr. Brown
Mr. McRae	Mr. Harper
Mr. Venn	Mr. Layman
Mr. Wittenoom	Mr. Lofton
Mr. Steere (Teller)	Mr. Marmion
	Mr. Pearce
	Mr. Shenton
	Hon. M. Fraser (Teller)

The motion was therefore negatived, and (there being nothing to report),

THE SPEAKER took the chair.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he would move the resolution standing in his name, again, next day.

WATER-BORING, EUCLA DISTRICT (MESSAGE No. 9).

On the order of the day for the resumption of the debate upon His Excellency's Message (No. 9), relating to water-boring in the Eucla District,

MR. BROWN moved the following resolution, as an amendment upon that previously submitted by the Commissioner of Crown Lands: "This House, 'having considered His Excellency the Governor's message and its enclosures, 'is of opinion that the sum of £23,000, set 'apart under the head of 'Boring for "'Water' in the schedule to the Loan Act 'of 1884, should not be diverted from 'the purpose for which it was intended— 'that of assisting private effort in sink- 'ing for water in the Eucla District alone '—but, should the finances of the colony

"justify the expenditure, would favorably consider a proposal to appropriate from revenue a sufficient sum of money to join the Western Australian Pastoral Association of Sydney, upon equal terms, in setting at rest the question of the existence of water at a paying depth upon a portion of that company's lands in the Eucla District, such portions to be agreed upon; the expenditure from public funds not to exceed £3,000. Provided, however, that the discovery in any well of a supply of water suitable for the consumption of stock, yielding about ten thousand gallons per diem, should be considered to have set the question at rest, and that after such discovery no claims to a subsidy in aid of wells subsequently sunk shall be entertained. Provided, further, that an officer be appointed to represent the Government, and report during the progress of the operation." The hon. member said he referred, a few evenings ago, to an application made from another company two years ago for similar assistance, which was then refused, and he then stated that communication had been opened with that company since the present application came before the House; but, as he understood no reply had been received, he did not think it was worth his while taking any further action in the matter, so far as that company was concerned.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) pointed out that the resolution now before the House materially altered the aspect of the case. The proposal put forward by His Excellency in his message was that the Council should consider whether it would not be well to expend the £3,000 set apart in the loan schedule for water-boring, in giving assistance to the W.A. Pastoral Association to discover water in the Eucla District. The Council answered that in the negative—that it was not desirable to divert that money for this purpose; and he now felt rather in a difficulty in the matter. The present proposal assented to the idea of assistance in another form, out of the general revenue, which was quite another thing. Of course, if the House assented to this proposal, a sum would have to be placed on the Estimates to meet the proposed ex-

penditure. It was just a question whether they would have any funds available for such a purpose or not.

MR. BROWN: That is quite understood.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he did not know that there was any great objection to the resolution, so long as that was understood—that the assistance should only be given in the event of the finances of the colony warranting it. That was just the question.

MR. CROWTHER said, whilst in entire accord with the resolution, he should like to know who was to spend the first money,—the Government or the company?

MR. BROWN said that was entirely a matter for the Government to make its own terms with the company. He should think the Government would take care to make a binding agreement with the company; and, so long as the Government had this resolution before them, he did not see what difficulty there could be in the matter. It was not for that House to enter into every petty detail of the arrangements to be entered into.

MR. LOTON thought, possibly, it would be desirable, if the House agreed to the expenditure of any sum for this purpose, that it should come out of general revenue, but he thought it would be more likely to pass if the amount were reduced; and he was not quite sure whether it was not more likely to pass if it were put in another form. He did not know how it was intended to arrive at a calculation as to the proportion of the expense to be borne by the Government and by the company respectively—whether the cost of the plant was to be taken into account and shared between them, or whether the Government or the company was to provide the plant itself. If the Government was to contribute a portion of the cost of the plant as well as the cost of labor, it would be a great concession to make to this company, if the company afterwards claimed this plant as their own. [The hon. member then referred to some returns showing the expense of boring in New South Wales, where £1,000 was expended in sinking 503 feet by means of drills, without discovering any indication of water.] The present proposal was to spend £3,000 in

assisting one particular company, but he thought it would be more likely to meet with approval if, instead of doing this, a bonus were offered to any company who first discovered water in the district. He would suggest that a bonus of £2,000 out of the general revenue be offered to the company or person who should first prove to the satisfaction of the Government that water existed in the district, within an area to be defined by the Government.

MR. HARPER said there might be some points of advantage in what the hon. member (Mr. Loton) suggested, but he would draw attention to the fact that the bonus must necessarily be confined to one company, inasmuch as it was not likely that any company would attempt to find water on anybody else's land, and if the Government selected any particular spot for conducting the operation, it must be on some particular lease.

MR. MARMON said there was another question to be considered and that was this—if the plant were jointly purchased by the Government and the company, who would it belong to when the experiment ended, whether it was successful or not.

MR. BROWN said they must leave all that to be settled by the Government. He assumed that, if this resolution passed, the Government would place a sum on the Estimates to meet the proposed expenditure, and would also sketch out a plan of the proposed arrangement and submit it to the House, which, if approved, the money would be available for expenditure; and, if the Government could then enter into satisfactory arrangements with the company, the money would be expended.

MR. VENN said he was rather inclined to support the suggestion thrown out by Mr. Loton. He saw great difficulty in assisting individual companies, and a great deal of time might be lost. Any arrangement entered into would have to be very carefully drawn, and possibly a year might elapse before the details were settled and operations commenced. On the other hand, if they were to offer a bonus to all-comers, anybody might come in at once and commence operations; and he thought if the Government did that it would do all that could reasonably be expected.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the objection to that was that they would be asking these people to take all the risk of failure upon themselves. Of course if they were certain to find water they would not mind the expenditure; but there was no certainty about it. He thought we ought to risk something ourselves in endeavoring to open up this territory.

MR. GRANT did not think it would be such a costly process as some hon. members seemed to think. No doubt the experiment would be conducted under the old process of blasting; and not by means of diamond drills. He should like to see the company first showing their *bona fides* by expending a few thousand pounds of their own.

MR. WITTENOOM expressed himself entirely in accord with the hon. member Mr. Loton, which he thought would be the fairest way of dealing with the matter. As to the risk, he thought it would be well worth any company, holding millions of acres of land in the district, to run some little risk in discovering water, and he thought a bonus of £2,000 would prove a great stimulus to any company.

The amended resolution submitted by Mr. BROWN was then put and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 19th August, 1885.

Message (No. 16) : Report from Sir John Cooda re Weir across river Swan—Message (No. 19) : Attorney General's opinion re Bills of Exchange and the Stamp Act—Inquiry into working of the Scab Act—Amended Immigration Regulations : further consideration of—Supplementary Estimates, 1885 : further consideration of—Destruction of Rabbits Amendment Bill : second reading—Law and Parliamentary Library Amendment Bill : second reading—High School Scholarships and Exhibition (Message No. 13)—Dog Act Amendment Bill : further consideration of, in committee—Volunteer Foreign Service Bill : second reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.