

"able be sufficient for the purpose, and "for extending the railway from Spencer's "Brook to Northam." As the House had now left the question of gauge on the Bunbury line to the discretion of the Engineer-in-Chief, he thought the same latitude should be given to the Government to adopt a broader gauge than 2ft. for the Newcastle branch.

MR. S. H. PARKER objected to such a resolution as this being sprung upon the House at a moment's notice—a resolution that was in direct opposition to the deliberate decision of the House on the previous day.

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the adoption of the broader gauge was contingent upon their having sufficient money to adopt that gauge—he did not propose to incur any further expenditure than had been appropriated for the work—and also to construct the Northam line. He should be very happy himself if the broader gauge could be adopted, but that entirely depended on the amount of money they had to spend.

MR. BROWN said it appeared that there was no detailed estimate of the probable cost of these branch lines, and it was just possible that there might be sufficient funds to build both lines on the wider gauge. Everyone, he thought, would be glad if that should be the case. He might say that he had done this at the request of the Commissioner of Railways himself, who was anxious to do the best he could for the districts concerned.

The amendment was then put and passed, and the report, as amended, adopted by the House.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 18th September, 1885.

Chinese and the Kimberley Goldfields—Urban Tramways Bill: report of select committee—Dredge for King George's Sound—Message (No. 26): Assenting to Bills—Land Regulations (Message No. 3): report of select committee—Electoral representation of Kimberley—Vote for City Temperance League—Extension of Close Season, under Game Act—Gun License Bill: third reading—Municipal Institutions Bill: third reading—Federal Council (Adopting) Bill: motion for second reading—Loan Act, 1884, Amendment (Reappropriation) Bill—Church of England Collegiate School Bill: third reading—A Grievance: Motion for adjournment; excessive tariff, Eastern Railway—Estimates, 1886: further consideration of—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

CHINESE AND THE KIMBERLEY GOLD-FIELDS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), replying to Mr. McRae's question of 16th September, said that the Government had at present no intention of taking any steps of the nature indicated, to prevent the goldfields alleged to have been discovered in the Kimberley district from being monopolised by Chinese. There were, he might add, no restrictions on the immigration of Chinese into the neighboring Northern Territory of South Australia.

URBAN TRAMWAYS BILL.

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) brought up the report of the select committee on this bill, which was as follows:—"Your committee having thoroughly examined the Bill for the construction of tramways, referred to them by your honorable House, beg to submit the same with amendments, which they recommend for your careful consideration and adoption."

The consideration of the report was deferred.

DREDGE FOR KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works whether he could furnish any information as to the probable cost of a dredge suitable for the requirements of King George's Sound. Two or three accidents, from grounding, had happened to some of the P. and O. steamers at Albany, and the captains of

these vessels had recommended the authorities to have the harbor dredged. He had been informed that a suitable dredge would not cost much, but he had since ascertained that it would cost more than he had been led to expect it would.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he was unable at the present moment to give any reliable information on the subject, as he did not know what sort of dredge would be required. The dredge now employed on the river Swan—which was anything but powerful enough—cost £4,550, so that he would say that a dredge suitable for the requirements of Albany would not cost less than £7,500 or £8,000.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: Perhaps the hon. gentleman, when he visits Albany, will make inquiries into the matter?

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

MESSAGE (No. 26): ASSENTING TO BILLS.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor informs the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has this day assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Bills:—

- " 2. *An Act to confirm the Expenditure for the services of the year 1884, beyond the grants for that year.*
- " 3. *An Act to amend the law relating to the Branding of Live Stock.*
- " 4. *An Act to explain 'The Superannuation Act.'*
- " 5. *An Act to authorise the Further Extension of the Eastern Railway.*
- " 6. *An Act to amend the Colonial Passengers Ordinances and Acts.*
- " 7. *An Act to amend 'The Cattle Diseases Ordinance, 1865,' and the 'Imported Stock Acts of 1876, 1877, and 1879.'*
- " 8. *An Act to amend the Northern District Special Revenue Acts of 1873 and 1878.*
- " 9. *An Act to diminish the dangers resulting from Bush Fires.*
- " 10. *An Act to amend 'The Dog Act, 1883.'*
- " 11. *An Act to secure an Annuity to Dame Jane Barlee, for life.*

- " 12. *An Act to provide for the Government and Discipline of the Volunteer Force when serving without the limits of the Colony.*
 - " 13. *An Act to repeal 'The Law and Parliamentary Library Amendment Act, 1881,' and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.*
 - " 14. *An Act to make provision for changing the style of the Municipal Councils of Albany and Geraldton and of other Towns in the Colony.*
 - " 15. *An Act to amend 'The Destruction of Rabbits Act, 1883.'*
- "Government House, Perth, 18th September, 1885."

LAND REGULATIONS (MESSAGE No. 3): REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that in the continued absence of his hon. friend the Commissioner of Crown Lands, whose illness they all regretted, he had to move that the report of the select committee on the Land Regulations be taken into consideration. He was not prepared with any resolution, and he understood there was a feeling on the part of many hon. members that this was too important a question to be disposed of during the few days that remained before the present session was brought to a close. At the same time, he understood, it was the desire of some hon. members that there should be some discussion on the subject. He might say that the matter was entirely in the hands of the House, but he might add, in the absence of the chairman of the select committee (the Commissioner of Crown Lands), that the general impression seemed to be that it would be impossible to arrive at any definite conclusion on the subject this session. Some hon. members probably would not be prepared to go so far as to endorse the recommendations of the select committee, — recommendations which he might almost say revolutionised the principles upon which our land laws were at present founded; at the same time it might be desirable that there should be some general expression of opinion on the subject, and it was necessary that an understanding should be arrived at with reference to one or two points, before the

House separated. There were certain pastoral leases which, by effluxion of time, expired at the close of the current year—not a great many—and more at the end of next year; and, in the event of the House not arriving at any conclusion with regard to the adoption of the committee's report, it would be necessary that an opinion should be placed on record as to what action should be taken for the security of these pastoral tenants whose leases were about to expire. It certainly would not do to leave these tenants of the Crown without some protection during any interval that may transpire between now and such time as the amended regulations may become law.

MR. SHENTON: Is the Commissioner of Crown Lands likely to be able to attend the House on Monday evening?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said he had seen Mr. Forrest that day, and he thought he would be able to come down to the House on Monday evening.

MR. SHENTON: Then I move the adjournment of the debate until Monday evening.

MR. STEERE said he was glad to hear the Commissioner was likely to be present on Monday night, so that they might be able to enter into a discussion upon the report; but he thought it would be satisfactory, as some members had to leave Perth on Monday, if it were understood that, although there might be a discussion on the subject, the adoption of the regulations should not be proceeded with until next session, when they would be in a better position to deal with them than at present. He believed that, in the opinion of most hon. members, if they were to attempt to proceed with the regulations now, it would probably take months to pass them, and he did not think many members were prepared to prolong the present session for another month. He was very sorry that it should be necessary to postpone the consideration of these regulations for another year, for he thought it was very desirable, on many grounds, that the question should have been settled this session; and he thought if the select committee had been appointed sooner than it had been, there would have been no reason why the question should not have been settled

during the present session. He found that it was a fortnight after the question was brought before the House, by a message from His Excellency, that the matter was referred to a select committee. He regretted to say that a great deal of time appeared to him to be lost at the commencement of every session, and he hoped that at future sessions they would endeavor to regulate the work, and to distribute it more evenly over the period during which the session lasted.

MR. WITTENOOM said nobody regretted the absence of the Commissioner of Crown Lands more than he did. They had spent a great deal of time and done very little, and now it was proposed to adjourn the debate again until Monday, and then defer it until next session. He did not think there was the slightest chance of passing these regulations this session, nor did he think it would be fair to the country. He had that day received a telegram from his own constituents protesting against the regulations being altered without affording the country an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the proposed amendments. He therefore begged to move the following resolution: "That the further consideration of the proposed Land Regulations be deferred until the next annual Session of the Legislative Council, and that the Government be requested to renew all leases falling in for a period of one year."

MR. SHENTON said he quite agreed with the hon. member for Geraldton that it would be impossible at this late period of the session to grapple with this important question, and he thought the country should have an opportunity of seeing the proposed new regulations. He had sent a copy of them to the Agricultural Society of the district which he represented, and they raised the same objection as the hon. member for Geraldton, that there was not sufficient time to deal with such a difficult question during the few days that remained of the present session. In the other colonies the same course as was now proposed to be adopted here was always followed: new land regulations were never passed into law in the same session as they were first introduced.

MR. BURGESS thought the thanks of the House were due to the select committee who had prepared this report.

There were many suggestions contained in the report which to his mind would prove of great service to the colony, but there were others which he regretted to say he was not at all in accord with. These proposals were entirely revolutionary, upsetting all the existing land laws of the country, and it was a very serious matter indeed to deal with the question at this late period of the session. He thought it would be impossible to go into them in any way at all that would be satisfactory to members themselves or acceptable to the country generally. He thought it was their duty to let these proposals go before the country, so as to afford an opportunity for the public to express their views upon them. There was a great difference of opinion on the subject of these land regulations, even among those who prepared this report, and he thought it was only fair that the public at large should have an opportunity of discussing them.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he agreed with the hon. member for Geraldton in this,—that these regulations, being the most important subject for legislation that the House could have before it, affecting as it did the whole colony and nearly every industry in the colony, should not be rushed through the House. He would go further than that: he thought that these regulations, which had occupied the attention of a large committee for about a month, being now in print, should be submitted for the consideration of the country at large, so that hon. members when they came there next session would be in a position to represent the views of their constituents on the subject. As to members not being able to grapple with the subject at this period of the session, he thought they were getting into better form every day. If hon. members accepted the responsibilities attached to a seat in that House, they must not set aside these responsibilities and think of their shearing, and of their farms, and of their stations—[MR. WITTENOOM: And of their law books]; they must be prepared to sit there until the business of the country was attended to, and not ask to have the work put off for another year to suit their own personal convenience, as the hon. member for the Bowes and other hon. members seemed to think. He did not himself

think there had been much time wasted, especially by those who had served on this committee. If there was any blame at all attached to their proceedings in that House, it was that they were too prone to rush legislation through, without full discussion; and he thought, if there was some drag upon them in this respect, it would be all the better for the country and for all concerned. He need only refer to the question of railway gauge in support of this proposition. The House one day went in for a 2ft. gauge, and the very next day it reversed its decision. If they were to judge their labors by the result, he thought it would be seen that they evidently did not take sufficient time to consider the subjects brought before them. He thought the thanks of the House and of the country were due to such members as those who represented Fremantle and the Gascoyne, who generally did enter thoroughly into the subjects brought before them; and he thought if we had a few more members like them it would be a good thing for the colony. With regard to these land regulations he thought it was very desirable that those who framed them should fully explain their views, and that those views should be fully reported in the papers, and go abroad to the country.

MR. BROWN thought that now would be the proper time to move that progress be reported, until Monday evening, and he trusted that hon. members would consent to that course. So far as he could judge the motion submitted by the hon. member for Geraldton, he was in accord with it; but as there was a probability of their having amongst them on Monday evening the Surveyor General himself, who, not only from his position as the head of the Lands Department of the colony, but also as the chairman of the select committee whose report was now before the House, was the person who above all others, he thought, should be in the House to take part in the discussion of these regulations,—as the Surveyor General was likely to be present on Monday evening, he hoped hon. members would now consent to report progress, with a view to sit again on Monday. He thought every member of the select committee, believing that their chairman would be able to be pres-

ent on Monday evening, would at this stage feel a good deal of delicacy in what he might term trespassing on the province of their chairman. He quite agreed with the hon. member for Perth that it was highly desirable that the House, and through the House the country, should have explained to them the objects which the select committee had in view when proposing these regulations for the acceptance of the Legislature, and also a statement as to what the select committee considered would be the effect of these regulations if they became the law of the land. He was aware that it was the desire of the chairman of the select committee to make such an explanation to the House, and he felt certain he would be very disappointed if the House were to finish discussing the subject without his having an opportunity of making that explanation. If they passed the resolution moved by the hon. member for Geraldton, they would not be able to revive the discussion this session, and, on this ground, he trusted that hon. members would now consent to report progress. One hon. member said the proposed regulations were of a revolutionary character. He would ask those who regarded them as revolutionary to propose something better in the place of them. It was very easy to find fault, but not so easy to frame a set of land regulations that shall be suitable for all parts of this extensive and varied territory. He thought himself that the country should have an opportunity of considering these regulations, and he felt sure that the result will be to throw fresh and valuable light upon the subject.

MR. CROWTHER said if anything like a guarantee could be given that, if progress were reported until Monday evening, the whole question would then be deferred until next session, he should not object; otherwise he should strongly oppose it. As to the homily preached to them by the junior member for Perth about shirking their responsibilities, he thought that of all the members of that House who ought to have been the last to have referred to such a subject the hon. the junior member for the metropolis was the man. If sitting in his own office, and looking into the Council Chamber, certainly not oftener than two or three times a week, constituted the

whole duty of a member, then perhaps the junior member for Perth was the member who was the most attentive to his duties amongst all the members of the House. Of course, it did not matter to the hon. member for Perth, who could slip at any moment from his own office to the House, how long the session lasted; but it was a matter of very serious concern to country members, and it was ridiculous to think that such a question as this could be satisfactorily dealt with just as many hon. members were packing up their carpet bags to go home. After twenty-five sittings, extending over seventy days, they were now asked to deal with a question that in other places would almost cause a revolution, would upset Ministries, and turn out Governments. The only consideration that he knew of for postponing the matter until Monday evening was the possibility of their having an explanation of the views of the Surveyor General on the subject. As for the views of any other member—with the exception perhaps of the hon. members for Perth and Fremantle—they were not worth a straw. The views of country members would be gained from their constituents, and would be made known from one end of the colony to the other between this and next session.

MR. MARMION thought it very desirable that the proposal to report progress should be carried, in view of the absolute necessity, in his opinion, of having an explanatory statement from the chairman of the select committee as to the intention of these regulations. They had seen in the columns of more than one newspaper most absurd interpretations put upon many of them, not only in leading articles but also in communications from gentlemen who were supposed to be well posted up in the question of land regulations, showing that the writers had only paid very casual attention to these proposals, and had altogether failed to grapple their meaning. Therefore, he thought it was very necessary that the chairman of the committee should explain to members of the House, as well as to the newspapers of the colony, and the public generally, the proper meaning of these regulations. He disagreed with the hon. member for the Greenough that the opinions of the

hon. members of that House were not worth a straw: he believed there were members in that House whose opinions on the land question would carry some weight, and he thought it was very desirable that those opinions should go forth to the country through the columns of the public press. There was apparently only one feature of immediate and pressing necessity that had struck some hon. members, namely, the fact that certain leases in the Central District were about to fall due, and there was a very natural anxiety that the holders of these leases should be protected. But surely there were other districts requiring consideration as well as the Central District. He thought the stocking regulations in the Kimberley district required altering, and the select committee recommended that they should be altered. He was afraid that unless they were altered at once, or before next year, many lessees would throw up their leases, in March, rather than pay a double rental, and the country would be the loser of a considerable amount of revenue. He hoped the House would extend the same consideration to these Kimberley lessees as it seemed disposed to do in the case of the lessees in this part of the colony.

Progress was then reported, and leave given to sit again on Monday evening.

REPRESENTATION OF KIMBERLEY.

MR. McRAE moved, that in the opinion of the House the time had arrived when increased representation should be extended to the colony, by the Kimberley district being constituted a separate electoral district, and that the Government should take steps to introduce the necessary enactments. The hon. member said the settlers of the district were very desirous of having a member of their own, their idea being that, in proportion to the amount of revenue which the district contributed, its wants and requirements were at present very inadequately represented in that House, and that if the district had a member of its own, its claims would be more likely to be recognised. Nearly two-thirds of the whole of this vast colony and nearly one-third of its whole revenue was at present represented in the Legislature by three

members only; and, situated as Kimberley was, some 1500 miles from the seat of Government—so far, indeed, that it might almost be looked upon as a separate colony—it could not be expected that the claims of the district could be brought before that House with the weight which the importance of the district deserved. It might be argued that, considering its population, the district was as well represented as any other district in the colony, but it must be borne in mind that there was a very large native population, who were very large consumers—in fact larger consumers than the whites—and that they also contributed, through their labor, very extensively towards the exports of the colony. He thought hon. members who had seen the very fine specimens of gold which had just arrived in Perth from this district would agree with him that before many months had elapsed the present population will be increased tenfold. They knew already that during the past few months there had been a considerable addition made to the population in the shape of pearlers, and of settlers who had proceeded with stock to the northern part of Kimberley and Cambridge Gulf; and, although there were only 70 or 80 names at present on the electoral roll, it was well known that this did not at all represent the population of the district. He hoped that all hon. members who took any interest in this distant part of our territory would give the resolution their support.

MR. GRANT, in seconding the motion, said he thought everybody who knew Kimberley at all would admit that it was entitled to increased representation in that House. He and his hon. friend Mr. McRae really did not feel that they were able to do justice to the varied requirements of the district, and its local interests—its pearling interests, its pastoral interests, and he might now say its mining interests; and he hoped no opposition would be shown to the proposal to give Kimberley a member of its own.

MR. MARMION thought there could be no doubt that the desire of that House was to give every satisfaction to the settlers of this remote portion of our territory, which had been of so much service to us during the last few years; and that, in order to strengthen that bond of sympathy which should bind this distant

part of the colony to the seat of Government and to the larger centres of population, the desire of the settlers to have a representative of their own should be gratified. Last year the revenue received from the district in land alone amounted to £20,000, which sum, it might be said, had enabled this colony to borrow half a million of money for the construction of public works in other parts of the country,—only £3,000 of this money being intended for expenditure in the district itself. It was true that the population was small at present, but it was increasing every month, and, if the good news which had been received within the last few days as to the discovery of a payable goldfield in the district should prove true, there was no doubt that very shortly the population would be largely increased. That being the case, and looking at the claims which the district already possessed, he hoped the motion now before the House would meet with favorable consideration, and that hon. members would feel that in giving Kimberley a representative of its own they would not be giving undue preponderance to the representatives of the North.

MR. STEERE said he was unable to appreciate the value of the argument that because a district may be entitled hereafter to increased representation, it was entitled to it now. Neither did he agree with what had been said by some hon. members that, because this district yielded such a large amount of revenue, it was therefore entitled to increased representation. He had never yet heard that revenue should be the basis of representation. Looking over the report of the Surveyor General upon this district, presented to the House the session before last, he noticed the whole population of the district did not then amount to more than about 50; and he must say it was with extreme astonishment that he had heard the hon. member for Kimberley—for he begged leave to say that Kimberley had a member, and two members, already in that House—it was with extreme astonishment he had heard the hon. member, Mr. McRae, saying that at present there were 70 or 80 names on the electoral roll of the district. He doubted very much whether there was within the district or out of it

that number of electors, seeing that only a couple of years ago the entire population of the district only amounted to 51. It appeared to him that Eucla was just as much entitled to representation as Kimberley. We were deriving a large amount of revenue, and had been for years past, from that portion of our territory; and, so far as he was concerned, he should not consent to any increased representation for the North unless it was counterbalanced by a corresponding increase of representation for the South.

MR. McRAE said he did not see the force of the argument of the hon. member Mr. Steere, that because there were only fifty people in the district two or three years ago there should not be more in it now. Four or five years ago there were no white residents in the district at all.

MR. BROWN said he should vote for the resolution. He thought the time had arrived when Kimberley should be directly represented in that House. It was true that the two members for the North did represent the Kimberley district in a certain sense; but the objection to the existing arrangement appeared to be this: the Kimberley people felt that in the matter of the election of these two members they were quite in the hands of the electors of the more southern portion of the district, who could swamp them altogether and return such members as they liked. He had no doubt that the object which the Kimberley settlers had in view was simply this, that in the election of a representative they should themselves be the masters of the situation, and be able to send to that House a man of their own choice. They were ably represented at present, everyone admitted; but, he thought it was only fair that they should be placed in a position to select their own representative, which they could not do now.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that for his own part he thought there was no constituency in the whole colony which was so ably and so strongly represented in that House as the North—which included this Kimberley district. The members for the district had its interests entirely at heart, and, so far as that House was concerned, he was sure there was every desire on the part of all hon. members that the

claims of the district should be recognised. He thought he was right in saying that those claims had always met with the greatest consideration at the hands of that Council. No complaint had been made that he was aware of as to the claims and requirements of the district having been neglected; and, on this ground alone, he saw no necessity for this motion. It must be borne in mind that if the extreme North were to get another member, and that the extreme South were likewise to put forth its claims to increased representation—which no doubt would be the case if this motion were agreed to—the Crown would then have the right to appoint another nominee member, which would increase the number of members in that House from 24 to 27; and the question was, whether it was necessary or desirable to do so. It was very doubtful to his mind, even if Kimberley were to obtain a member of its own, whether any local man was likely to come down all that distance simply for the honor and glory of representing the district; and the probability was that, as in the case of many other districts, the gentleman who would be elected to represent Kimberley would be a gentleman residing possibly at Perth or Fremantle. With the fullest desire to meet in every way the wishes of the settlers of Kimberley, he felt, under all the circumstances, that he was unable at this juncture to support the proposal before the House.

MR. SHENTON said that, at the time the question of increasing the representation of the colony came before the House some years ago, he was one of the strongest advocates in favor of Kimberley being represented; and, when the North district was given two members instead of one, it was always understood that the additional member (Mr. McRae) was to represent the Kimberley district. Looking at the very small population of the district, he thought the representation it already had in that House was quite enough. Although there appeared to be a considerable number on the electoral roll, still a great many of them were not residents of the districts, and some of them were not even residents of the colony. He thought himself that Kimberley was better represented in that House than any other district in the colony. Looking

around him, he saw at least seven members who were interested in the district, and closely identified with it,—which was more than could be said of any southern constituency.

MR. BURT said he was inclined to agree with the Colonial Secretary and with other speakers that Kimberley was the best represented district in the House. The hon. member for Toodyay said he could count seven members who were interested in the district; he (Mr. Burt) thought he could count ten. [Mr. BROWN: I think I can count twenty-four.] The North, including Kimberley, was a large and extensive district no doubt, and it was not long ago since they gave it an additional member of its own. But was not the South, which embraced Eucla, also a large and extensive district,—quite as big as the North and Kimberley put together? Yet it was only represented by one member. He thought the South was quite as much entitled to increased representation as the North.

MR. WITTENOOM had much pleasure in supporting the resolution, for he certainly thought Kimberley was entitled to a distinct representative of its own. The district had special requirements, and special interests, differing from those of other districts of the colony in every way; and this the House had already recognised by framing entirely different land regulations for the district. As to the South wanting a member because the North was to get one, he did not see the force of that argument at all. The South was already quite sufficiently represented in that House. Why, the junior member for Perth alone was enough for half-a-dozen districts. As for Eucla wanting a representative, he had never heard of there being anybody in that district to represent. [Mr. BURT: Far more than in Kimberley.] They appeared to get on very well, then, without a representative.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he also should support the resolution. He saw no reason, himself, if there was any gentleman in the Kimberley District who was anxious to come down all that way to represent it, why that gentleman should not have his wish gratified. He was afraid he would very soon get tired of it; but if this Kimberley gentleman, whoever he might be, really was desirous

of a little excitement and change, and to participate in the gaieties of the city, he saw no reason why he should not be allowed to indulge his desires. He did not agree at all that population should be the basis of representation, or that because an hon. member happened to have property in a district he might therefore be regarded as a representative of that district. Were that principle to be admitted, Perth would have a large number of representatives, including among others the hon. member for Jayes. But he could not accept the hon. member for Jayes as a city representative. Nor could he admit any other hon. member, except His Honor the Speaker and himself, to a right to share the privileges of representing the citizens of Perth in that House.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said, with regard to the issue raised by the hon. member for the Murray, who stated—and, he thought, rightly stated—that if it was considered desirable, and right, and just that Kimberley should have another member, then most decidedly the district which he (the hon. baronet) represented was in all justice entitled to a second member as well—with regard to that issue, he was quite in accord with the hon. member for the Murray. The North-west and Kimberley put together were not larger than the district which he had the honor to represent; and, not only that, he believed the number of inhabitants was three times the number of the inhabitants at the North. He quite agreed with the hon. member for Perth that population was not the only basis upon which to rest representation. There should be representation of interests as well as of population; but still population must count for something. There was another reason why his district should have another member as well as Kimberley, and that was, that no other member besides himself, he believed, had the slightest interest or concern in the district which he represented; whereas, in regard to anything connected with Kimberley, he found hon. members on all sides of the House taking the keenest interest in it. He might state that he had received several letters from Kimberley settlers on this subject, and it appeared that what they wanted—and the only thing that would satisfy them—

was a local man, somebody who was personally and practically acquainted with all their wants and requirements. He would ask the hon. member who had brought forward this motion whether he really thought such a man could be found, who would come down to Perth year after year to sit in that Council? He was perfectly certain in his own mind it could not be done. The gentleman elected might come down perhaps for one session, for the novelty of the thing; but it would be at such a great inconvenience and personal sacrifice that he felt sure the result would be that very soon they would have some resident of Perth or Fremantle representing the district. He had no desire to oppose the resolution, but, certainly, if it should be carried, he should feel it his duty to move that his own district should have another member, as well as the North.

MR. VENN said in order that there should be no mistake about his own intentions in this matter, he might state that he intended to record his vote in favor of this resolution, and that, should it be carried, he should introduce a similar motion with regard to Eucla.

The resolution was then put, and declared to have been carried, on the voices.

GRANT-IN-AID TO CITY TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

MR. RANDELL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to place on the Estimates for 1886 the sum of £100 as a grant-in-aid towards the funds of the City Temperance League." The hon. member said he had been asked to move in this matter by the representatives of various temperance bodies, and he had a petition signed by Bishop Parry and the Rev. J. Johnston, and other influential gentlemen holding official positions in connection with some of these bodies. These temperance organisations had been working for many years, some of them having been established so long ago as the year 1839, and names held in honor and respect in the annals of the colony had been connected with them, amongst them Judge Mackie, Mr.

George Fletcher Moore, and the late Auditor General (Mr. Knight). For some time the cause went on very well, but to some extent it had had its ups and downs, and, at the present moment, he believed the temperance organisations generally were in a very flourishing condition. The League embraced members in all parts of the colony, and it was its intention to erect a building in Perth, upon the property known as Mount Hermon, which building would provide a local habitation for the various temperance bodies. At present they had to hold their meetings in any place they could find, paying rent for the same, and hence the determination of the League to erect a building of its own, which would be available for the use of all temperance bodies. Hon. members would see that this, if carried out, would add materially to the progress and prosperity of the cause. He was encouraged to move for this assistance from the fact that the Legislature had already recognised the desirability of assisting kindred institutions. When he said kindred institutions, he linked with the temperance cause religious bodies,—bodies next to which he was inclined to rank the temperance cause as one of the great promoters of the well-being and of the social and moral good of the community. In addition to the grants-in-aid made by the Legislature to the various sections of the Christian Church, the Legislature had also recognised the claims of other public institutions, such as Working Men's Associations, Mechanics' Institutes, Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, and other associations that aimed at promoting the intellectual, moral, and material welfare of the public. Though perhaps the result of the labors of these temperance organisations had not been so marked as might have been expected, still it must be acknowledged that they had done a great deal of good, and he was satisfied, from his own knowledge and the information he had received, that richer results would be achieved in the future than in the past. In connection with the League there was a Band of Hope, the object of which was one that must command the cordial sympathy of every right-minded person, who wished to see the rising generation of colonists brought up in the

practice of total abstinence. These temperance organisations labored under considerable difficulties, and if they had not met with as much success as one would wish, it was not their fault, but the result of the many difficulties they had to encounter. The League would have to borrow a considerable sum for the erection of the building which it was proposed to construct, and the assistance now asked for would enable them to go forward with some confidence with the project they had in view. They would at any rate see their way clear to pay the interest on the money which they would have to borrow, and in that way this grant would be of material help to them. He was hopeful of receiving a considerable amount of support in this matter amongst the hon. members of that House. Although it might appear to some hon. members in the light of another raid upon the Treasury, he did not think anyone would imagine for a moment that the country would be ruined if this motion were assented to, as he hoped it would be, if hon. members were in favor of the principle which he was advocating. He thought such societies as these had a right to look to the State for assistance in their endeavors to cope with an evil which he believed had been rightly regarded as the curse of our nation. He believed our own Government—though they had not thought proper to place a sum on the Estimates for that purpose—were in favor of, or at any rate would not oppose, the adoption of this address, which he had much pleasure in commending to the sympathy and favorable consideration of his fellow-members.

MR. BROWN asked whether the League represented the Rechabites and the Good Templars as well as the other temperance bodies?

MR. RANDELL said the property would be vested in the League, but the building would be the home of all the various temperance organisations in the colony.

MR. BROCKMAN said he had much pleasure in supporting the motion, as he felt that the Temperance League and the cause which it advocated had strong claims upon the Legislature and the Government of the colony. Though these organisations did not contribute directly

to the revenue, yet they did much towards diminishing the charges and burdens that would have to be borne by the State in connection with pauperism and crime. He did not know much about the City Temperance League—he belonged to the Good Templars himself; but he knew this, that all these temperance bodies were working with one object, and he thought hon. members must acknowledge that this object was a good object, and one well worthy of encouragement and support.

MR. GRANT said it gave him great satisfaction to see the effort now made to obtain assistance for so good an object. He considered the temperance cause an excellent cause himself.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had felt considerable alarm during the last few sessions at the inclination shown by the hon. members of that House, instead of limiting or contracting those matters which it was within the province of the Legislature to deal, to extend and to expand the contributions of the State in all directions. Supposing this address were presented and the money voted, it would only be the precursor of a host of other claims of a similar character, and the House would be flooded with them, until the burden became a burden too grievous to be borne. Although he wished the temperance movement every success, and also those who labored in so excellent a cause, still he failed to see that they had a claim upon the Legislature to the extent of giving them £100 a year. He should have thought that the members of these organisations would have shown sufficient enthusiasm and self-reliance to build their hall without coming to the State for assistance. He did not know what amount of support the motion was likely to receive, but, in the event of its being likely to meet with success, it would be his duty to divide the House upon it.

MR. LOTON said he was inclined to agree with the Colonial Secretary in this matter. He thought the Temperance League was simply another name for total abstinence, and he was a temperate man himself. It was said that drunkards and those who indulged too freely in liquor wasted their substance and wasted their money in gratifying their depraved

tastes for drink. On the other hand, abstainers and temperate folks saved their money, and he should have thought that these were the last people who would require any pecuniary assistance from the State to enable them to build a "local habitation." He should have thought that they would have built their own hall, as a monument of their thrift and their other virtues. He thought the revenues of the colony could be expended in a much more needful direction, and one that would benefit the country more than in assisting the City Temperance League to build a hall. Though a temperate man himself, he felt he could very conscientiously vote against the resolution. .

MR. STEERE said he understood the money was asked for as a contribution towards the building fund. [MR. RANDALL: No.] Then he was sorry he could not support it. They had no guarantee whatever that the money would be spent in a way that would meet with the approval of the House.

MR. CROWTHER said that for once in his life he felt he should be bound to vote in opposition to his friend the hon. member for the North, who said that this motion would have his hearty support. It was said that doctors differed, and that while doctors differed the child died. People differed about this temperance question as much as about other patent means of regenerating the human race. It was only the other day he was reading a paper by Lord Bramwell on the subject. That eminent Judge evidently did not believe in the principles of total abstinence, and with much of what the writer said he (Mr. Crowther) fully agreed. He did not believe in voting the public funds of the colony for the promotion of the views of temperance reformers.

MR. RANDALL thought if any man had made a donkey of himself in his life it was Lord Bramwell in the article referred to. He hoped the hon. member had also read Canon Farrar's reply, which, to use a common expression, knocked the Judge's arguments into a cocked hat. A tissue of more inconsequential arguments he had never read in his life. Referring to the empty state of the benches, Mr. Randall said he was

sorry to find that hon. members when questions of this kind came before the House took to themselves wings, or rather heels, and flew away. He had hoped to have received the almost unanimous support of the House in this matter, when he appealed to hon. members for assistance in promoting a cause that contributed as much as anything to the moral and social welfare of the community,—which he placed on a higher platform than its grosser and more material interests.

MR. WITTENOOM said he would have been glad to support the motion, but he did not see where the money was to come from in the present state of our finances, when they were told that not another farthing could be squeezed out of the chest for the Estimates.

MR. BROWN said, not to give a silent vote, he admitted the good which the hon. member who had brought forward the motion imagined these temperance bodies accomplished; he admitted the value of the noble efforts made by disinterested persons to reclaim the drunkard; but he could not agree with the statement that that House had already subsidised kindred institutions,—for he did not put the churches on the same footing as temperance associations; and, even as regards churches, the policy of the House and of the country was against rather than in favor of continuing State aid to religion; and he believed the hon. member himself was a strong opponent of it. [MR. RANDELL: Hear, hear.]

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said that so far as the temperance cause itself was concerned it certainly had his full sympathy; but they were told that there was no more money forthcoming, and that if the address were carried no practical result would be gained. Therefore it appeared to him it was idle to discuss it. He himself had some doubt as to whether the money of the State should be used in this way; at the same time he must say that if money spent in the cause of temperance would produce temperance, he was certain that no money could be spent upon a better purpose.

The question was then put—that the

address be presented; and, upon a division, the numbers were—

Ayes	...	...	4
Noes	...	...	9
Majority against			5

AYES.
Mr. Brockman
Mr. Grant
Mr. Venn
Mr. Randell (Teller.)

NOES.
Hon. J. A. Wright
Mr. Brown
Mr. Burges
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Loton
Mr. McRae
Mr. Steere
Mr. Wittenoom
Hon. M. Fraser (Teller.)

The motion was therefore negatived.

EXTENSION OF CLOSE SEASON FOR BIRDS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved: "That in the opinion of this Council the Close Season for Birds, as proclaimed on the sixteenth day of October, 1879, under the provisions of 'The Game Act, 1878,' should be extended over the month of July, and be made operative throughout the Central Land District." The object of the resolution, as hon. members would see, was to give greater protection to native game. The Act made it lawful for the Governor-in-Council, by proclamation in the *Government Gazette*, to declare what shall be the close season, and this was done six years ago, after a good deal of consultation with local authorities on the subject. Latterly the attention of the Government had been directed to the necessity of including the month of July in the close season, and that this should apply to the whole of the Central District.

The motion was agreed to, without comment.

GUN LICENSE BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1876. AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

FEDERAL COUNCIL (ADOPTING) BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this bill, said hon. members were aware that last session they adopted a

resolution joining with the other colonies in asking Her Majesty to cause a measure to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, for the purpose of constituting a Federal Council of Australia, upon the basis of the draft bill adopted by the Sydney Convention. He now held in his hand a copy of the Imperial Act, which had been the outcome of the resolution referred to, and which had received the Royal assent last month. The Act had been altered in its passage through the Imperial Parliament, but the copy which he now held in his hand was a correct copy of the measure as it received the Royal assent, the Agent General of Victoria having wired to his Government the corrections which had been made in the bill by the Imperial Parliament. It provided that the Federal Council Act shall not come into operation in any colony until the Legislature of the colony shall have passed an Act declaring that the same shall be in force in it; and the bill which he now asked the House to read a second time was the Adopting Bill for this colony. The bill provided that the Federal Council Act shall come into operation here on the 1st December next, if at that date at least three other of the Australian colonies shall also have adopted it. The second clause of the bill provided that the representative of this colony in the Federal Council shall be appointed by the Governor, by commission under His Excellency's hand and the seal of the colony; and that such representative shall hold office during pleasure. With regard to the qualification of this representative, the bill provided that he must at the time of his appointment be a member of the Legislative Council—either an official member, a nominee member, or an elected member; or that he had been a member of the Legislature at some time within six months before the date of his appointment. The latter provision was introduced to meet the contingency of a dissolution. Another clause provided for the resignation of this representative, and for any vacancy occurring in the representation of the colony. There was also a clause providing that every representative shall be entitled to be paid out of public funds all reasonable expenses incurred by him in connection with his attendance at the Federal Council, such

expenses to be approved by the Governor. Provision, however, was made that the office of a representative shall not be deemed to be an office of emolument or profit under the Crown. The bill was a very short one, and any further information which hon. members might wish he should be happy to give when the clauses came to be dealt with in committee.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: Can the hon. gentleman give us any information as to the abrogating clause?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the bill he had placed on the table was exactly what was passed by the Imperial Parliament.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: What are the terms of the abrogating clause?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the clause which was the 31st Clause of the Imperial Act constituting the Federal Council was as follows: "This Act shall cease to be in operation in respect to any colony, the Legislature of which shall have passed an Act or Ordinance declaring that the same shall cease to be in force therein; provided nevertheless that all Acts of Council passed while this Act was in operation in such colony shall continue to be in force therein unless altered or repealed by the Council."

MR. BROWN said he regretted that at this stage of their proceedings he should feel it his duty to move the adjournment of the debate. He thought that before dealing with such an important question as this, it was highly desirable that the Act of the Imperial Parliament should have received some attention on the part of hon. members. That Act had only been placed in their hands that evening, and he confessed that he had not yet perused it. No doubt they had already accepted the principle last session, and announced their readiness to join with the other colonies in this federal movement, and to pass any Act necessary to bring federation about. At the same time, it was notorious that there was a great difference of opinion between the various colonies as to the terms of this Imperial Act, and he thought that before agreeing to the second reading of the bill, or discussing it, they ought to have an opportunity of reading the Imperial Act. He

therefore moved that the debate be adjourned until Monday.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he was inclined to agree with the hon. member for the Gascoyne. As they were asked to pass a bill adopting an Imperial statute, they ought to be fully acquainted with the terms of that statute before agreeing to such a bill. He could not help thinking that this 31st clause was one that went far to make the statute of comparatively little value, when they found that any colony the Legislature of which happened to be dissatisfied at any time with the action of the Federal Council may withdraw from the union. That appeared to him to reduce the value of this federal movement very much.

MR. STEERE said, as he should not be in the House when the debate—if adjourned until Monday evening—came on, he wished to state that he thought it was of very great importance, to this colony at any rate, that this bill should be passed during the present session, because he understood from the colonial newspapers that it was contemplated by the colonies which were going to join in this federation movement to hold the first session of the Federal Council, at Hobart, in January next, and that two very important questions affecting this colony—the defence of King George's Sound and a lighthouse at the Leeuwin—were likely to be discussed at that first meeting of the Council. But if they did not pass this bill at the present session, in other words if Western Australia did not join the federation, these two questions, he apprehended, would not be discussed at all by the Federal Council, if the colony most deeply interested refused to join the movement.

The motion for the adjournment of the debate until Monday was then put and passed.

LOAN ACT, 1884, AMENDMENT (RE-APPROPRIATION) BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this bill, said it merely gave effect to the resolutions of the House as to the reappropriation of certain loan moneys in order to complete the Roebourne telegraph line and to give the Engineer-in-Chief more money for the Eastern Railway.

The motion was agreed to, without discussion.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND COLLEGIATE SCHOOL BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

A GRIEVANCE: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

On the motion for going into committee of supply,

MR. HARPER moved the adjournment of the House. The hon. member said that since the Estimates had been placed on the table and the working expenses of the Eastern Railway had been shown, he could not but feel and observe that there had been a strong feeling of something like jealousy against the district which he represented for appearing in the position of having such a large amount of money expended in it, and because it appeared on the face of it that a very considerable annual outlay was incurred in order to give the district the benefit of railway communication. He wished to avail himself of the present opportunity of pointing out what to his mind appeared to be some of the reasons that tended to make this outlay necessary by preventing the line from yielding as much revenue as it might do. The tariff which had been in use now for some considerable time on this railway produced a good deal of adverse comment as soon as it was published, as to the loose and careless manner in which it had been framed,—if the object in view was to induce traffic; and one would have thought that, when its anomalies and exorbitances were pointed out, the Government or the Railway Department would have taken the matter into their early consideration and revise it. For instance, if a person wished to send a sheep from York to Fremantle he would have to pay 11s. Considering that our coastal steamers carried a sheep from the North-West District to Fremantle for 5s.—less than half the charge by rail from York—these railway rates were simply prohibitive, as regards sheep. Then, again, if a man wanted to send a sucking pig from York to Fremantle the charge was 11s., but, if instead of sending one solitary pig, he sent eight, he had to pay 14s. 2d. each for them,—which was simply absurd.

There were many other items which the honorable member believed were open to the same remark, and considering this railway was built to encourage and develop the industries of the districts which it passed through, he thought these anomalies and prohibitive charges ought to be looked into, and the sooner the better. He thought one of the most legitimate objects of this railway was to supply the wants of the city and the port, and he had not the slightest doubt that, provided reasonable facilities were given and offered, it would be a very considerable increase of traffic on the line, especially as regards the carrying of live stock. He believed that not more than 15 sheep or 8 pigs could, under the present tariff, be carried in one truck at a time; and, if that was the case, it was an absurdity, and the department might as well say at once that it did not intend carrying live stock at all. Another staple produce of the district was wool, and he noticed that the rate levied on wool was 6s. 6d. a bale, between York and Fremantle; and ten bales, he believed, was the limit that could be carried on one truck—no more than could be carried on one dray. The effect of such a rate and of such a regulation was that it was found just as cheap, if not cheaper, to carry wool by road as by rail, taking into consideration the return load which a man would naturally wish to take. The result was that the railway revenue suffered considerably, and he hoped the attention of the Engineer-in-Chief would be immediately directed to this matter, with a view to remedy the present state of affairs. Another grievance which he might refer to had been caused by some remarks made by the hon. member for Perth the other evening, when the hon. member spoke in rather a sensational strain of the duties which ought to be forced upon the owners of land in the Eastern Districts as regards bringing their land into cultivation. The hon. member spoke of a considerable area of land along the line which he said ought to be taxed or brought under cultivation. The hon. member further made a statement—which, he presumed, the hon. member must have made from hearsay—that wheat could be produced in the York district at a cost of 2s. per bushel to the grower, and that therefore wheat-growing

ought to be a magnificent industry, which people ought to be compelled to follow. He was afraid that the hon. member when he made that statement furnished another illustration of the saying that “a little knowledge was a dangerous thing.” Had the hon. member taken the trouble to inquire, he would have found that what he had been told about 2s. a bushel referred only to the cost of cultivating the land and taking the crop off it, without reference to the interest on the money paid for the land in the first place, the buildings and other conveniences necessary, and the implements of husbandry required by the tiller of the soil, which might be put down, at the lowest, at not less than 3s. a bushel; and, as the value of wheat, last year, at the mill was about 3s. 4d. per bushel—after carting it perhaps forty or fifty miles from the farm—this would leave the magnificent sum of 4d. a bushel profit, to cover the risk of fire, flood, blight, and other dangers which farmers had to face. This would show what very poor prospects the growers of corn had before them, and the hon. member for Perth proposed that these prospects should be improved by taxing the land. The hon. member supported his argument by pointing out the quantity of land that was cultivated in and around York itself. Had the hon. member given the matter a thought he would have known that the lands so cultivated were not cultivated for the purpose of making a livelihood, but partly as a pastime and for the sake of horse-feed and provender. The hon. member said he did not suggest a land tax in order to derive an increased revenue so much as to force the owners of land to cultivate it. That, coming from a member of the House who enjoyed the reputation of being one of the leading advocates of a change in the Constitution, and who no doubt hoped some day to be the Premier of the colony under Responsible Government, was certainly an extraordinary doctrine, on the part of a member who aspired to become the leader of a popular movement,—that people should be compelled to do, not what they thought best with their own, but that which suited the whims of the Government, or of the Ministry in power. The same argument might be made to apply to the

lead and copper mines at the North, the owners of which might be compelled to work them, whether it paid or not, or have them taxed. Some years ago a railway was constructed in that district, with the direct object of developing these mines, but, unfortunately, the production of ore ceased to pay; yet, if the principle advocated by the hon. member for Perth were to prevail, these mines ought to be subjected to a tax, if their proprietors did not choose to work them. So far as the principle went of making those who received most benefit from railways contribute more towards the revenue than those who derived no benefit, he had no objection to it; but the question was, who was it that did receive most benefit. He thought if they considered the matter for a moment they would be right in saying that those who had received the greatest benefit hitherto from this Eastern Railway were, in the first place, land speculators; in the next place, probably the lawyers; also merchants, and other residents in the towns. The hon. member's suggestion as to a tax overlooked all these, and was directed at the head of the unfortunate producer, who at the present moment found it impossible to make his produce pay. At the present time there was a very considerable amount of cereal produce lying in the stores and granaries, in the Eastern Districts, simply held back because there was no market for it. The suggestion of the hon. member, if carried out, was one that would give rise to a very strong feeling of jealousy between the residents of the country and the residents of the towns,—a state of things which he thought everyone in that House would regret to see, and try to prevent; and he hoped that nothing would be done to encourage it, for he was sure it would be a most unfortunate thing. Reverting to the railway tariff, he hoped the Commissioner of Railways would lose no time in making a careful revision of the freight rates, and do all that he could to encourage traffic on this railway. He was quite sure that if this were done, and the rates were lowered to a reasonable figure, and if the wheat market looked up and the price of sandalwood rose to what it was a few years ago,—he was quite sure that the Eastern Railway with its present rolling stock would be

quite unequal to the traffic that would pass over it.

MR. S. H. PARKER seconded the motion for adjournment. As the hon. member for York had made certain statements referring to himself, he felt bound to avail himself of this opportunity of answering those statements. The hon. member said amongst other things that "a little knowledge was a dangerous thing," and the hon. member said he thought that was particularly applicable to him (Mr. Parker). He had not known, himself, before, that he was so ignorant of farming operations in Western Australia. Apparently, one might be born on a farm, brought up on a farm, and be conversant with farming operations from his youth, and reside all his life in the colony, and yet only possess such little knowledge of farming as to be positively dangerous. The hon. member said that his speech the other evening had met with disapprobation in the district which the hon. member represented, and that he thought it would be condemned by all who knew anything as to what producers had to contend against. He thought if there was a man in the colony whose opinion on such a subject was worthy of weight—a man possessing a thoroughly practical knowledge, who had devoted his life to agricultural and pastoral pursuits, and who had made a large competency by it, one who was essentially a practical man—that man was Mr. Walter Padbury. Now Mr. Padbury, after reading what he said in the House the other evening, wrote to him from Yatheroo as follows; "I was much pleased with your and Mr. Steere's remarks in reply to the Colonial Secretary's budget speech. Although I own a large quantity of land, I should not be opposed to a small land tax, provided that the tax was well and properly applied." That was what Mr. Padbury said of the proposal that had given such offence to the hon. member for York. He had a very great respect for the opinion of the hon. member for York—and he was sorry that the hon. member should have formed such a very low estimate of himself—but when he found a man of Mr. Padbury's experience, a man who had had ten times the experience of the hon. member for York, endorsing his (Mr.

Parker's) views, and stating he was quite prepared to submit to a land tax himself, he really began to think that he was not so ignorant and so dangerous as the hon. member for York sought to make out. Some few years ago, they were asked to put a duty on flour, but Governor Weld was such a free trader that he would not nominate a member to a seat in the House if he was opposed to free trade, and the proposed duty was not imposed at that time. Eventually, however, a duty was placed upon all imported flour and upon all cereals, and they were told that the necessity for such a duty was caused by reason of the farmers of the Eastern Districts being unable to compete with South Australian farmers, because they had no railway to bring down their produce. They said, "Give us a railway, and we shall want no duty, we shall want no protection; we shall then drive South Australian and all foreign flour out of the market." Well, they got a railway, and it now appeared, according to the statement of their own member, that corn-growing did not pay even now. If the hon. member's argument was worth anything at all, it went to show that we ought never to have built this railway to York. It was never intended for the purpose merely of bringing down a few bales of wool; it was never intended for the accommodation of a few squatters, who kept the land idle from one end of the line to the other; that railway was intended to promote agricultural settlement. But what did they find now? Why, the member for the district himself damned it completely for agricultural purposes. Although they had a railway, they could no more compete now with the South Australian farmers than they could before; for the production of wheat only left them a profit of 4d. a bushel at the mill in York, after carting it forty or fifty miles. Surely this was a deplorable picture of the district, painted by the hon. member who represented it in that House. The hon. member said that, when he (Mr. Parker) made his calculation as to the cost of growing wheat, he did not take into consideration the cost of buildings, implements, and all that. When the hon. member made that statement, he made an assertion that had no foundation. The calculation he had quoted was not

his own calculation, but made in conjunction with gentlemen who he supposed were amongst the largest corn-growers in the Eastern Districts, and he asked them at the time to take into consideration every item of expenditure they could think of; and everything which the hon. member himself had mentioned was taken into calculation. The hon. member himself possessed a good farm and an uncommonly good tenant, and that tenant told him he could produce corn even at 1s. a bushel, and that he did so every year. Therefore, he submitted, he was within the mark when he stated that corn might be grown at 2s. a bushel, by any man who knew anything about it,—not perhaps on a few acres. As to a land tax, it could not be denied that before they built this railway the land was hardly worth 5s. an acre, whereas now it was worth £1 an acre, so that it had increased in value fourfold, and as this had been done at the public expense, and as the railway was still a heavy burden upon the revenue, he thought that such a tax as he had suggested would be a fair and reasonable tax. Seeing that the maintenance of this railway cost the colony many thousands of pounds every year, was it not fair and reasonable that those who had been so largely benefited by its construction, and who continued to be largely benefited by its maintenance, should contribute something in return. He was not suggesting that the people should be taxed but the land,—land that had been specially benefited and the value of which had been largely enhanced by this railway. Nor did he propose this tax simply for the purpose of taxation, but in order to induce the owners of it to turn it to some good account. Although, generally speaking, the argument might be a good one, that every man had a right to do what he liked with his own; it did not apply to land, which was a portion of the public estate. Supposing they were to put a tax of a penny an acre, the owner of 1,000 acres would have to pay £4 3s. 4d. Now, the man who used that land merely as a sheep-walk might feel such a tax, but the man who cultivated would not feel it at all; it would be a mere drop in the ocean compared with his receipts from the land. He really believed such a tax would do good to many of these owners themselves: it would turn them

from being comparatively poor into wealthy men. He would not tax them all alike: the nearer the land was to the railway, and the more it was benefited by the railway, the more it should be made to contribute to the revenue,—a differential tax, in short. Why the hon. member for York should have gone out of his way to drag in the question of Responsible Government he could not say. That was a question that seemed to have pretty much the same effect upon the member for York as a red rag had upon a bull; and he failed to see the point of the hon. member's argument. He should have thought that under that popular form of Government, a Ministry dependent for its existence upon public favor would be likely to do all it could to court popularity, and he should think that a tax on land in a colony like this would be about the last measure a responsible Ministry would resort to. He was quite prepared to defend his views on the constitutional question at any time, but he did not think this was the occasion for it; nor could he understand what could have prompted the hon. member to drag the question into their discussions.

MR. LOTON said he thought the hon. member for York had made out a very good case in favor of altering the present railway tariff. The matter was one that required to be looked into by those responsible for the present rates, which as regards stock and produce were simply prohibitory. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that they must not reduce the tariff so low that the loss upon this railway would be even greater than it was already. There were one or two items which he thought might even be raised, and which would help to swell the receipts. For instance while agricultural produce was charged at the rate of 3s. 10d. per ton, per seven miles, timber was only charged 1s. 11d. per ton for the same distance. As to taxing the land through which the railway ran, he went with the hon. member to a certain extent; but he thought the hon. member did not go far enough. He must tax, in addition to the land, the people who lived in the vicinity of the railway, whether they owned land or not, for these people were benefited by the railway very considerably. When they talked of a

land tax they must go further, and have a property tax as well.

MR. BURGESS said he rose merely to combat the statement made by the hon. member for Perth, who had stated that corn could be grown at 1s. a bushel. It was ridiculous to make such a statement, with regard to the average of land in this colony. Unless upon exceptionally rich land, the cost of growing it alone would be more than that.

MR. BROCKMAN said, as to Mr. Padbury's letter mentioned by the hon. member for Perth, he was sure that Mr. Padbury never made a penny by corn-growing alone; he had stock running on the land. He had often heard Mr. Padbury say "fools grow wheat; wise men run stock on their land." Yet the hon. member for Perth proposed to put a tax on land, in order to compel people to grow wheat on it. As to growing wheat at a cost of 1s. a bushel, he emphatically contradicted the statement. He had himself cultivated as rich land as any in Western Australia, and he never harvested a bad crop, but generally above the average of crops in this colony, and he could not make any money out of growing corn at 2s. a bushel sold at his barn door. If the question were put to the farmers of the colony, 99 out of 100 would tell them it could not be done.

MR. CROWTHER said he believed there had been a select committee sitting upon the question of railway freights, and he was sorry that their report had not yet been brought before the House. His grievance was this: that committee in their report said: "Your committee has had under consideration the question which was referred to it by your honorable House, of the advisability of assimilating the freight charges on the Northern Railway to those on the Eastern; and after careful study of the different circumstances that govern the two cases, the majority is of opinion that the following new rates should be applied:—The freight on ores to be reduced from 16s. to 12s. per ton, including loading and unloading by the Department; the same rate for smalls and parcels as on the Eastern Railway; that the rates for wool, sandalwood, grain, flour, hay, garden produce, and special goods, be at 25 per cent. over whatever rates may exist on the East-

"ern Railway for the same articles; and "that all other goods be classified as 2nd "class, at the Eastern Railway 2nd class "rates." What he failed to see was why the committee should recommend the same rates on both lines as regards some goods, and different rates for other goods. Why should a ton weight of timber be conveyed a distance of 34 miles on the Eastern Railway for 4s. 6d., when a ton of ore on the Northern Railway, carried the same distance, would, with the reduction now proposed, cost 12s.? That was neither right, equitable, nor just. What timber was to the Eastern District ore was to the Northern District. Timber dealing, moreover, was an investment and not a speculation like mining. Yet on this Eastern Railway people who dealt in timber could have sidings provided for them and have a ton of this wooden ore brought down the distance from Northampton to Geraldton for 4s. 6d., whereas a ton of leaden ore on the Northern Railway would cost about three times as much. He might be prejudiced, but everything to his mind seemed to be done by the Government of this colony to favor the central towns, rather than the country. So far as the proposed reductions on the Northern Railway went—and in this he was supported by those most deeply interested in the matter—he would prefer the rates to remain as they were than to have these stupid reductions, which would only tend to perpetuate the grievances of the district. He would prefer to have this stronger lever, or this more substantial fulcrum, for wielding the lever of Separation, than be thankful for such small mercies as these. As to the hon. and learned member for Perth and his corn-growing, whoever told the hon. member that he could grow corn at a cost of 1s. a bushel, if that man were to be examined before a Commission of Lunacy, and there was any doubt as to his insanity, that statement would have consigned him to a lunatic asylum in an instant.

The motion for adjournment was negatived, and the House went into committee for the further consideration of the Estimates for the ensuing year.

ESTIMATES, 1886.

Medical Department, Item £9,709:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), replying to a question put to him when this item was under discussion before, said that a dispenser was required at the Colonial Hospital in order to save the expense of having to employ medical practitioners, in cases of emergency, when the Colonial Surgeon was unable to attend. This officer would be available also to relieve district medical officers, when required, and when not so employed his services would be utilised for dispensing purposes. The Colonial Surgeon said the appointment was a most necessary one, and one that would prove economical in the long run.

MR. MARMION said if the resident medical officer at the Colonial Hospital was understood to attend poor people outside gratuitously, he had no objection to the appointment of this extra officer to assist him in the dispensary; but, if the resident doctor was allowed to supplement his official salary by being allowed private practice, he should certainly object to his having this extra officer to act as his *locum tenens* to enable him to devote his whole time to private practice.

MR. CROWTHER said if it was intended that this dispenser was to fill the gap occasioned by district medical officers obtaining leave of absence, and was to be sent for that purpose all over the colony, he thought he ought to be called by some other designation than a dispenser, which certainly would be a misnomer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was not prepared at present to answer the hon. member for Fremantle, but he might state that it was the practice for the resident medical officer of the Colonial Hospital to attend people free of charge if they were in indigent circumstances.

MR. BROWN, referring to the item, "Resident Medical Officer, Guildford, £100," said it had always been understood that when the House voted the salaries and agreed to the appointments of resident medical officers for country districts, that these officers should regard it as portion of their duty to attend upon private patients. Until quite recently, he was not aware that any cause for complaint had been given by any medical officer refusing to do so; but circumstances had taken place of late which

had raised the question of the obligation of these officers to attend upon private patients. He understood—it was notorious, in fact—that the medical officer at Guildford had denied that he was in any way obliged, as part of his duty, to attend to private patients, and he had positively refused to do so, in some instances, although his fees were tendered to him. So strongly did he and other hon. members feel on this subject, when they found that the action of this officer was backed up by the Government in this assertion of his independence, that it had been at first intended to strike out the whole of the vote for the Medical Department; but it was afterwards considered that this perhaps would be going too far, and that it would be punishing many for the fault of one. But as the officer now stationed at Guildford had raised the whole question, and been supported in the view which he took of his obligations as regards private patients, by the head of the department—who held that virtually there was no obligation on his part to attend to private patients; and, as it was clearly understood by that House that these resident medical officers were bound to attend upon the settlers and the people of the district if paid for it, he considered it was their bounden duty to strike out the vote for this officer altogether. He therefore begged to move that this item be expunged.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it would be his duty to oppose the motion and also to divide the House upon it. The case of this officer was a peculiar one. One could hardly comprehend how any officer could behave in the way in which it was said this officer had behaved. The Government had done all it could in the matter, by appointing a board of inquiry, but it appeared there had been no dereliction of his official duties on the part of the officer. He had declined on several occasions to attend private patients, but it appeared that no provision was made in his engagement rendering it obligatory on his part to do so. In fact, it was never thought necessary to make such a provision, or that the necessity for it was ever likely to arise. He hoped there would never be a recurrence of such a thing again; but, if no provision was made for the payment of the salary of this officer, the Government

would be placed in a dilemma, for it had not been shown that, so far as the discharge of his official duties was concerned, the officer had been guilty of any laches.

MR. SHENTON said he should support the motion. Surely that House was not going to vote £100 a year to a medical man for attending four policemen. There were plenty of country places which stood more in need of a resident medical officer than Guildford. In fact, he hardly thought it necessary, now that we had a railway and telegraph communication, and several medical men living in Perth, that there should be a resident medical officer stationed at Guildford at all.

MR. STEERE said undoubtedly the object of that House in providing salaries for these medical officers was that their services should be available for the sick people of the district where they were stationed; otherwise the House would never vote £100 a year, simply for attendance upon the few officials who might happen to be in the district. Of course it was not expected that these medical officers should attend upon private people for nothing; but, when people were prepared to pay them, and they yet positively refused to attend upon them, such conduct deserved reprobation not only on the score of humanity, but also because it was a deliberate shirking of an obligation which their official position cast upon them, or was intended to cast upon them.

MR. BURT said he intended to support the motion to strike out the item. There could be no doubt that the intention of the Legislature and of the Government was that these district medical officers should attend upon the settlers. A very pertinent proof of this was to be found in connection with the recent appointment of a medical officer for the Murray District. When a vacancy occurred in the Resident Magistracy of that district, the settlers applied to the Governor on the subject. The ground which they urged in support of their representations was the fact of their being so far from any medical assistance, which occasioned the residents of the district great inconvenience and hardship. The Governor, he believed, at once fell in with the views of the residents, and a medical man was appointed to the vacancy.

MR. MARMION said the difficulty that presented itself to his mind was this: if this medical officer at Guildford were to retire, finding that no provision had been made for the payment of his salary, and another officer were appointed in his place who did not object to attend upon private patients, there would be nothing provided on the Estimates to pay that officer. He thought the object in view might be attained if the House were to mark its sense of the conduct of the officer now stationed at Guildford by placing on record its opinion that any medical officer who refused to attend upon private patients was guilty of a dereliction of duty. This would serve as a warning to others.

MR. WITTENOOM hoped that in all future appointments it would be distinctly stipulated that these Medical Officers shall be bound to attend upon private patients.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) pointed out that if this vote were struck out it might place the Government in a difficulty. One would think that, as a general rule, a medical officer who had a right to undertake private practice would do so; and this certainly did seem a strange case. But it appeared that it was not made a part of this officer's appointment that he should attend to private practice, it being thought he would do that, naturally. But when the question arose, and a board was appointed to inquire into the matter, and no fault could be found against the officer, so far as the official discharge of his duties was concerned, what was to be the result if this vote was struck off? He thought, hon. members having expressed their views upon the subject, should hesitate before adopting this extreme course.

MR. BROWN said the object he had in view was this, that, if the Government in making these appointments in the past had made no provision rendering it obligatory upon these officers to attend upon the people of the district, when called upon to do so, and payment was offered to them, that care shall be taken that such a provision is made in all such appointments in the future.

The motion to strike out the vote was

carried upon a division, the numbers being—

Ayes	...	...	13
Noes	...	...	3

Majority for ... 10

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brockman	Hon. A. P. Hensman
Mr. Burges	Hon. J. A. Wright
Mr. Burt	Hon. M. Fraser (Teller.)
Mr. Crowther	
Mr. Grant	
Mr. Loton	
Mr. Marmion	
Mr. McRae	
Mr. Parker	
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Steere	
Mr. Wittenoom	
Mr. Brown (Teller.)	

The item was therefore expunged.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the item "Resident Medical Officer, Gascoyne, £100" be increased to £200, in accordance with the resolution of the House.

This was agreed to, and the departmental vote, as amended, was put and passed.

Judicial Department, Item £14,789:

MR. MARMION, referring to the item, "Payment of Witnesses and Jurors, £4,000," said it was understood that when a Puisne Judge was appointed this item would be considerably reduced, but he noticed no reduction made on these Estimates. He found on reference to the returns that the expenditure under this head last year did not amount to more than £1,683. Of course, this was one of those items which could not be estimated with precision, but £4,000 seemed a large sum to provide when nothing like that sum was likely to be required.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said of course the money would not be spent unless it was required, and it was impossible to say whether it might be required or not.

The vote was then agreed to.

Police Department, Item £30,297 10s.:

MR. BROWN asked for some explanation as to the first item, showing an increase in the salary of the Superintendent of Police, from £475 to £500.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the increase was in consequence of the proposed transfer of the Water Police from the Imperial Government to the Colonial Government, thus entailing additional responsibilities

upon this officer. Hon. members were aware that this Government had from April last taken over the charge of the Water Police, and provision was made for this increase in the Superintendent's salary on the Supplementary Estimates which had already passed the House.

MR. BROCKMAN said that £30,000 appeared to him an enormous sum to pay for this department. It amounted to nearly £1 per head of the whole population, and he thought that at least £5,000 might be knocked off this amount. It was impossible for him to point out where the reductions might be made, but he was sure that if the amount were reduced, the head of the department could make both ends meet just as well as at present. He moved that the item be reduced by £5,000.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that the members of that House were to blame for any increase in this vote, which was owing to the continual demands made for police protection in various parts of the colony. The rise in the rates of wages had also something to do with it, necessitating a higher salary to be offered to induce respectable men to join the force. He hoped the hon. member would not press his motion, or, if he did, that it would meet with no support.

The motion upon being put was negatived, on the voices, and the vote agreed to.

Gaol Department, Item £16,694:

MR. MARMION, referring to the item, "Fremantle Prison, £8,000," asked whether it was the intention of the Government to keep up two expensive establishments, one at Perth and another at Fremantle, or was it intended to concentrate all prisoners at the Convict Establishment?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he believed the intention of the Government was to appoint the same Commission that dealt with the question of the transfer of the Convict Establishment, to make recommendations as to the reorganisation of the whole department, and that probably this Commission would commence its labors as soon as possible after the session closed. He thought he might venture to say that there would be no cause, next year, for complaint as to the necessity for retrench-

ment in connection with the management of this branch of the service.

MR. S. H. PARKER hoped the hon. gentleman would not put him on this Commission, for he did not intend to serve upon it. He did not see why the members of that House should be saddled with the work of reorganising an establishment like this. It was essentially a work which the Government ought to take upon itself. For his own part he did not intend doing any more work for the Government, until he was a member of the Government.

The item was then agreed to.

Rottnest Prison Department, Item £3,690:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the House had agreed to a resolution affirming the desirability of having a pine plantation established on the island, at Rottnest, and he had therefore to move a new item,—"Plantation, £50."

Agreed to, and the vote as amended put and passed.

Printing Department, Item £2,460 4s. 8d.:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the clerk in this department would be entitled to an increase of £10 next year, and he had therefore to move to increase this vote by that amount.

Agreed to.

Inspection of Sheep Department, Item £1,812:

Agreed to, without comment.

Educational Department, Item £10,595:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Registry Department, Item £160:

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Poor Relief Department, Item £7,626:

MR. BURT called attention to the fact that the inmates of the Invalid Dépôt under Mount Eliza were allowed to roam about the town as they liked. The majority of them, after coming into town, returned to the dépôt in a state of drunkenness, and not long ago one of them tried to stab a policeman. He was told by a spectator of that occurrence that this worthy gentleman, who was supposed to be an infirm old man, being an inmate of the Invalid Dépôt, went off in a very agile manner indeed after stabbing the constable, distancing the policeman and everybody else. These old men were really becoming quite a public

nuisance; some of them were quite able to earn a livelihood, by jobbing about Perth, and the money they so earned they spent in drink, and, instead of being a dépôt for invalids, the place was degenerating into a retreat for inebriates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the regulations of the dépôt were very stringent, but the inmates obtained leave occasionally to visit their friends, who, he supposed, now and then treated the old men rather generously. What was the Government to do with these poor old wretches? They must either send them to gaol or to the dépôt. As to any of them being able to earn their living by work, he was at variance with the hon. member; the greatest care was taken by the Superintendent that none were admitted who were not unfit to earn their own livelihood. He would make inquiries as to the allegation of drunkenness which the hon. member had made against the inmates. This was the first he had heard of it.

The vote was then put and passed.

Aboriginal Department, Item £2,433:

MR. S. H. PARKER, referring to the item "Aid to Protestant Mission, North District, £100," which appeared on the Estimates for the first time, said he was sure every hon. member would be pleased to hear of the establishment of this native mission, and that they would be still more pleased if there was any likelihood of its proving a success. But they had been furnished with no explanation on the subject.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he could not do better than read a letter addressed by Bishop Parry to the Government, which was the cause of this vote being asked for. [Letter read.] The intention, it would be seen, was to establish a native mission in some part of the Gascoyne district, and a clergyman named Mr. Gribble, who had had considerable experience in mission work, had gone up to establish and to manage the proposed mission at the North.

MR. CROWTHER did not believe that any good result would be attained by any endeavor to civilise and christianise these northern natives made by missionaries, and he would move that the item be struck out.

The motion was negatived, and the vote put and passed.

Government Storekeeper's Department, Item £905:

MR. STEERE said, if it was intended to reorganise this department, he thought the department ought to be stationed at Fremantle and not Perth.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the recommendations of the Commission had been carried out as far as possible, and it was proposed to send one of the principal officers of the department to Fremantle, where he would be attached to the Railway Stores.

MR. SHENTON said that provision had already been made in the Railway Department for a storekeeper at Fremantle, and surely there could be no necessity to increase the staff of this department as well. He moved that the new item "Clerk £90," be struck out.

This was agreed to, and the vote as altered confirmed.

Government Garden Department, Item £519:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Volunteer Department, Item £3,405:

MR. SHENTON said that in looking over the items in this department he was surprised at the proposed alterations. The very items that were required for keeping up the efficiency of the department, such as the maintenance of field guns, ammunition, and arms, had been reduced by nearly £200, and the Inspecting Field Officer was to get an extra £200 a year salary. This same officer also filled the office of Secretary to the Board of Immigration at a salary of £150, which with the proposed increase would bring up his salary to £650—nearly double what he agreed to come here for. Should it be decided to carry out the proposed scheme for the defence of Fremantle, the whole service would have to be reorganised, and the officer in command would have to be an Artillery officer. In that case, of course, the present Field Officer would have to be provided with some other employment in the Government service. He moved that the item "Inspecting Field Officer, £500," be reduced by £150. This would be an increase of £50 on his present salary, and bring up his emoluments to £500 a year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that, in justice to the officer in question, he should of course oppose the motion. Arguments, however, he was aware would have no effect, if hon. members had made up their minds.

MR. STEERE said he intended to support the proposed reduction, but not for the same reason as had been given by the hon. member for Toodyay. He supported it because this officer came here thoroughly understanding the amount of salary and allowances he was to receive; and nothing had since occurred that he was aware of to justify the House in giving him a higher salary. He understood these Estimates were prepared by this officer himself, and it certainly was surprising to find any officer proposing to increase his own salary by reducing other votes, and possibly impairing the efficiency of the force which he commands.

MR. MARMION : Was this increase really put on by the officer himself?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that was so. The demand had been made on the requisition of the Inspecting Field Officer, and, in addition to this £200 increase of salary, he had to request another £60 for lodging allowance. With regard to reduction in some of the other items, he might state that the reduction in the vote for the Easter Encampment was caused by reason of there being no necessity to purchase tents, as these were purchased last year.

MR. BROWN said he did not know whether the Inspecting Field Officer, when he came here, did so, as stated by the hon. member Mr. Steere, with no grounds for supposing that his salary would be increased; but he had it from that officer himself that he did expect an increase of salary, in course of time. The position of Secretary to the Board of Immigration had been forced upon him simply because his salary as head of the Volunteer force was inadequate. He (Mr. Brown) regretted himself that the appointment had ever been made—he was leaving altogether out of consideration the person holding the appointment, who might be the very best or the very worst officer they could have had; but, having made the appointment, he thought they ought to give him a salary that would at any rate

enable him to hold up his head in society.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, rather than see this item reduced as proposed, he might state that if the vote was passed as printed, the officer in question would be asked to resign his position as Secretary to the Board of Immigration.

MR. STEERE : He is a half-pay officer in the Imperial service, and that fact ought to be taken into consideration when dealing with his salary.

MR. BROCKMAN thought that, if they required such an officer at all, a salary of £500 a year was not at all too high. Whether they did require such an officer was another question.

The question was then put, that the item be reduced by £150, and, a division being called for, the numbers were—

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	..	...	7

Majority for ... 3

Ayes.

Mr. Burges
Mr. Crowther
Mr. Grant
Mr. Harper
Mr. Loton
Mr. McRae
Mr. Parker
Mr. Steere
Mr. Venn
Mr. Shenton (Teller).

Noes.

Hon. A. P. Hensman
Hon. J. A. Wright
Mr. Brockman
Mr. Browne
Mr. Burt
Mr. Marmion
Hon. M. Fraser (Teller).

The amendment was therefore carried.

MR. STEERE, referring to the item "Band allowances, £220," asked whether any certificate was required as to the efficiency of these bands before they received their allowance? He had heard that some of the country bands were so inefficient that when the services of a band were required the band of the Metropolitan Volunteers had to go up and play. There ought to be some standard of efficiency insisted upon, before these bands received a grant out of public funds.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that, so far as he understood the matter, these band allowances were paid on the recommendation of the commanding officers of the various corps.

MR. STEERE thought it highly desirable that the commanding officer, or whoever was responsible, should insist that the bands should attain a certain standard of efficiency to entitle them to an allowance. If this were understood,

it would stimulate the bands to greater exertions to become proficient players.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he would draw attention of the Inspecting Field Officer to the hon. member's suggestion.

MR. SHENTON thought the band of the Naval Brigade might be done away with, and the allowance divided between the bands of the Perth and Fremantle Rifles.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had a new item to add. The targets at some of the ranges were getting very dilapidated, and, as it was very desirable that rifle shooting should be encouraged among the Volunteers, he had to move that £80 be added for the purpose of supplying new targets.

This was agreed to, and the vote as amended put and passed.

MR. PARKER moved that progress be reported and leave given to sit again on Monday. It was now very late, or rather very early in the morning, and he thought it was time they adjourned. He protested against the attempt that was being made to pass these Estimates through that evening, simply for the convenience of a few country members.

Question put—that progress be reported. The committee divided, with the following result—

Ayes 4

Noes 12

Majority against 8

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Burt	Hon. A. P. Hensman
Mr. Grant	Hon. J. A. Wright
Mr. Venn	Mr. Brockman
Mr. Parker (Teller).	Mr. Burgess
	Mr. Crowther
	Mr. Harper
	Mr. Loton
	Mr. McRae
	Mr. Shenton
	Mr. Steere
	Mr. Wittenoom
	Hon. M. Fraser (Teller).

The motion to report progress was therefore negatived.

Works and Buildings, Item £13,315 :

MR. S. H. PARKER said he intended to have an explanation of every item included in this vote. He did so as a protest against the efforts that were being made to rush the Estimates through the House, in order that some members might get away. The first item was "Repainting Albany court-house, lamps,

etc. £100",—would the Colonial Secretary be good enough to explain this item?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the court-house now presented a very dingy appearance, and that a coat of paint was absolutely necessary. The lamps, too, were very necessary, and the amount was made up of some other trifling items.

MR. PARKER said the next item was "Additions to Residency, Lightkeeper's Quarters, and new cells for Gaol, Cossack and Roebourne, £560". Perhaps the hon. gentleman would favor them with some explanation as to these various items?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the additions to the Residency at Roebourne were estimated to cost £250. The new cells were required at the lock-up for ensuring the safety of native prisoners, some natives having recently escaped from custody.

MR. WITTENOOM said he noticed an item "Reshingling various buildings, and repairs to lighthouse quarters at Geraldton"—

MR. S. H. PARKER: The hon. member is hardly able to pronounce his words; the hour is evidently beyond his usual hour.

MR. WITTENOOM: You are making a fool of yourself.

MR. PARKER moved that the words be taken down.

MR. WITTENOOM: I know you feel it, but I say it again, and can prove it.

MR. PARKER: Is the hon. member in order?

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not consider that any hon. member ought to tell another that he is making a fool of himself.

MR. WITTENOOM: Every member present is in a position to judge for himself whether what I said is not true.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would remind the hon. member that a great many things may be true, which it may not be desirable to say.

MR. WITTENOOM: I think the hon. member has shown that he well deserves the name that has been applied to him in this House, that of a "political larrikin."

MR. PARKER: The hon. member's self-assurance is certainly amazing. His only claim to be heard at all is his assurance, his impudence; and his ignorance. As for these asses—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser); I move, sir, that you do report progress. These proceedings are derogatory to the dignity of the House.

MR. WITTENOOM: Turn him out.

Progress was then reported, and the House resumed, leave being given the committee to sit again on Monday.

The House adjourned at a quarter past two o'clock, a.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 21st September, 1885.

Prosecution of Messrs. Campbell and Sharp at Geraldton—Sanitary condition of Perth and Fremantle—Ostrich Farming: Mr. Malcolm's application—Electoral representation of the district of Plantagenet—Freight charges, Northern Railway—Kimberley Goldfields and Chinese immigration—Estimates, 1886: further considered in committee—Immigration Estimate, 1885-6: in committee—Public Works, etc. (Message No. 23): adjourned debate—Customs Ordinance, 1880, Amendment Bill: in committee—Loan Act, 1884, Amendment (Reappropriation) Bill: in committee—Scab Bill, 1885: motion for committal—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PROSECUTION OF MESSRS. CAMPBELL AND SHARP, AT GERALDTON.

MR. BROWN (in Mr. Wittenoom's absence) asked the Attorney General the following questions, of which the hon. member for Geraldton had given notice.

1. Is it a fact that Messrs. A. Campbell and Chas. Sharp were a short time since arrested on the Upper Murchison and brought to Geraldton, a distance of over 300 miles, and tried on a charge of "wounding and inflicting grievous bodily harm upon an aboriginal native 'Babbagee,' at Ludiomdi, about the month of January last," who died from measles while under the escort of Police Corporal Smith?

2. Was the warrant under which they were arrested issued upon the unsupported testimony of one or more native prisoners undergoing sentence in Rottnest gaol?

3. If so, were any steps taken to test the accuracy of the allegations of the informer or informers before the warrant issued; and if so, what steps?

4. Before whom, and at whose instigation was the information laid?

5. What were the reasons, if any, why Messrs. Campbell and Sharp were taken to Geraldton for trial, instead of before the honorary Justices of the Peace residing on the Upper Murchison?

6. Is it a fact that upon the trial at Geraldton the charges against Messrs. Campbell and Sharp were, upon the testimony put forward by the prosecution itself, proved to have been wholly without justification?

7. Are the Government aware that the testimony of aboriginal native criminals should be received with great caution?

8. Do the Government intend to make amends to Messrs. Campbell and Sharp for the great injustice and loss which they have suffered in this matter?

9. What has already been the cost to the country of this prosecution?

10. To lay upon the table of the House all papers and correspondence in connection with this matter.

11. Whether the native interpreter used on this occasion was not brought from Rottnest for the case, and returned?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) replied as follows:

1. Messrs. Campbell and Sharp were arrested and brought to Geraldton from the Upper Murchison, on a charge of wounding and inflicting grievous bodily harm upon a native named Babbagee. There is no satisfactory evidence as to the exact cause of death of this native; he died while on the march, but whether his death was caused or hastened by heat, fatigue, measles, ill-treatment, or any other cause, or by any of those causes combined, there is not sufficient evidence to show.

2. The warrant was issued on the testimony of three natives who were with Babbagee at the time in question, and who were then under sentence of imprisonment at Rottnest upon charges of larceny.