

Plantagenet said the amendment would be waste paper; but the hon. member seemed much alarmed at it, even though it be waste paper. It might not have the effect which some of them desired it should have. He dared say the Governor would not move until he had his orders. But he had the telegraph at his command; and it might be that when the Secretary of State saw that some of them, if not all of them, were in earnest, he might reconsider his views, especially when, at this grave crisis in the history of the colony—when the colony was not only not advancing but probably retrograding, for no country could be at a standstill—they were asked why don't you press it, why don't you show yourselves in earnest? If the Governor would not bring in a bill, let him say so in express terms. The amendment was more likely to command support than the original resolution, and on this occasion they ought to give way in their personal views, in order to attain the common end they aimed at.

The amendment was then put and passed.

Continuation of Debates of

Wednesday, 21st March, 1888.

from page 220.

ABORIGINES ESTIMATES, 1888 (£2,700).

The House went into committee for the consideration of these Estimates, covering the proposed expenditure of the Aborigines Protection Board during the year 1888.

MR. SHOLL asked for some information as to the item "Aid to Protestant Mission, North District, £100." A similar vote was granted last year, but he was not aware that the Mission had been re-opened after Gribble went.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the money voted last year had not been expended; but they

had to make provision for the grant, in accordance with the resolution of the House. The item first appeared on the general Estimates in 1885. Of course if the Mission was not re-established the money would not be expended.

MR. A. FORREST said he should like some information as to the item "Provision for Secretary, £100." What did the Board require a secretary for?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said this was the first time this vote had been specially asked for, but the gentleman who had given his services as secretary to the Board—and who was also the secretary to the Board of Immigration—had done so on the understanding that this year the two offices would be separated, and a separate vote taken for his salary. He received £100 a year as secretary to the Aborigines Protection Board, and £150 as secretary to the Immigration Board; the latter amount appeared on the Immigration Estimates.

MR. MARMION asked why no provision was made on these Estimates in aid of the Catholic Mission at the North, as well as of the Protestant Mission?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the vote for the Roman Catholic Mission at the North was included under the head of "Aid to Roman Catholic Institutions, £250,"—£150 for the New Norcia Mission and £100 for the Mission at the North.

The Estimates were then agreed to.

IMMIGRATION ESTIMATES, 1888 (£5,820).

These Estimates were considered in Committee.

MR. A. FORREST asked for some explanation as to the first item, "Passages for W. A. Land Co.'s immigrants, in accordance with contract, £3,000." He thought it had been agreed that this company should not send out any more immigrants.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said this vote was for immigrants introduced by the company last year, the money not being payable until three months expired after the immigrants landing. The same remark applied in a great measure to the next item, "Assisted passages for nominated immigrants, in accordance with present

regulations, £2,000;" most of these immigrants had already been nominated, and approved by the Board. Excepting these nominated immigrants, who were assisted by the Board to the extent of £11 towards their passages—the cost of bringing out free immigrants was £18—all immigration had been suspended for the present, the Board considering that, in the present state of the labor market, it would be unwise to encourage free immigration.

MR. A. FORREST thought the time had arrived for stopping even nominated immigrants. We had no work for them, and no one knew this better than the Government. People were leaving the colony by hundreds, and what was the use of introducing any more until the colony was in a position to provide them with work? At present these immigrants only made this colony a stepping-stone for reaching the other colonies. In this way we were only putting our hands in our own pockets to help our Eastern neighbors. Again, what was the use of providing the Immigration Board with a secretary at £150 a year, when they had stopped all immigration, except a few nominees? He thought they might find some other work for this officer to do.

MR. MARMION said that as a member of the Board he might state that the secretary in previous years had been in the habit of getting £200 a year, but, as it was proposed to give him £100 a year as secretary to the Aborigines Board, his salary as secretary to the Board of Immigration had been reduced to £150. As to putting a stop to the system of assisted immigration, he thought this was the very class of immigrants that the colony wanted, and, as a rule, they remained in the colony, their friends being here. These immigrants, or their friends, had to contribute £7 per head towards their passage. He thought it would be a pity, and a disgrace to the colony, if people here were prepared to do this for their friends at home and to take them off the hands of the Government as soon as they landed—he thought it would be a great pity if we refused to assist these people out of public funds. There were not likely to be many of them, and the Board now selected those whom

they considered most suitable to the colony.

MR. RICHARDSON asked whether these few nominated immigrants would require £500 for their keep on arrival and conveyance to their destination? He noticed that this sum was asked for.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the item referred to included other miscellaneous charges, and a great many et ceteras, which could not be estimated to a nicety. If the money should not be required, of course it would not be spent.

MR. SCOTT said he should do all he could to reduce this immigration vote, so long as the system now prevailing as regards supervision in England continued. He did not believe he was over the mark in saying that 25 per cent. of the immigrants who came out here, whether nominated or otherwise, labored under some physical infirmities or disabilities. If the Government were to take the trouble to ascertain from the medical officers who came out with these immigrants they would find that what he stated was correct. He did not propose to take any action with a view to reducing the vote this year, in the face of the explanation afforded by the Colonial Secretary; but he did think it was a scandalous shame that some better system of supervision, as regards the physical condition of our immigrants, was not exercised at home. It was a downright shame that the public funds should be wasted in bringing out people, to become inmates of our hospitals, simply through lack of supervision on the part of our immigration agents in England.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it was hardly fair to blame the Government in this matter. All the arrangements with regard to immigration were now in the hands of the Board, appointed by statute, and which consisted almost entirely of members of that House,—with one exception they were all members of that House. This Board very carefully considered all applications and nominations sent in to them, and, if the result was not considered satisfactory, it would be well perhaps to consider whether, for the present, immigration in any form should be continued at public expense. But before this could be done, a resolution to that effect would

have to be passed, and the regulations under which the Board worked abrogated.

MR. SCOTT said the present arrangement was a very unsatisfactory one, so far as supervision went. What the colony wanted was a healthy class of people, and not invalids, or people physically incapacitated from doing any work, which was required in a colony like this, if the colony was ever going to progress.

MR. SHOLL said he would not be in favor of stopping assisted immigration, for he thought it was the only system suited to the requirements of the colony. These immigrants came out here to their friends, and were taken off the hands of the Government on their arrival, which was a great saving to the colony. But he quite agreed with the hon. member for Perth (Dr. Scott) that all these immigrants should be carefully examined by some medical man at home before they were allowed to embark on board ship. The Crown Agents, he believed, received 15s. per head for all these immigrants, which was simply an inducement for them to send out every applicant they got—the more the merrier. But it was a serious matter for the colony, and he thought some stricter system of supervision should be exercised. He thought if the Immigration Board were to communicate with the Crown Agents on the subject, they would do well.

MR. RICHARDSON thought this was a very important question, which required more ventilation. If these immigrants were examined at all before they were sent out, the examination must be a very superficial one, and he thought the Board should take some steps to ensure proper medical inspection. He thought this was quite as necessary in the case of nominated immigrants as of any other class. Even although their friends might desire to introduce them, and paid a portion of their passage money, that was no reason why the colony should recruit its population from amongst a class who were unsuited for colonial life. He thought the whole matter required looking into.

MR. MARMION said there were difficulties in the way. It must be borne in mind that this colony had no Immigration Agent at home, and no travelling agents, like the other colonies had, to look into all these minutiae. A person

here might perhaps nominate a family living in some distant part of Ireland, and it would be rather hard upon these poor people when they got to London to send them, or any of them, all the way back, because of some slight physical defect. This difficulty perhaps might be got over by a medical examination before they left their native place, but we could not expect that such examination would be a very strict one. Until we had an Immigration Agent and a regular staff, like the other colonies, we could not reasonably expect to have our immigration business conducted with the same care and discrimination as the other colonies.

The vote was then put and passed.

ESTIMATES (REVISED), 1888.

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

Postal and Telegraph Department, £39,359 0s. 1d. (adjourned debate):

MR. SCOTT, with leave, withdrew his amendment to reduce the vote for the "Conveyance of Inland Mails" by £1,858 9s.

MR. SHENTON said progress had been reported in order to enable the Colonial Secretary to obtain some further information with regard to the conveyance of inland mails and the vote for the repair of telegraph lines.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it was his intention to bring forward a resolution on the subject of letting the Southern districts mail service by contract, with a view to effect some saving in the cost of that service; and it might be his duty to move a reduction in this vote when the Estimates were recommitted. But it was necessary that hon. members should clearly understand that, if he moved a reduction in the vote, the present expensive four-horse coach service to the South must be discontinued. With regard to the other item—telegraph repairs, he had made inquiry of the head of the department, and he was informed that the sum asked for would be required, as well as the unexpended balance of last year, which was required to meet certain outstanding claims.

The departmental vote was then put and passed.

Land Titles Department, £1,355:

Agreed to, without comment.

Medical Department, £14,522 18s.:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it was his duty to move an additional item; it was one that had appeared on the original Estimates, before they were revised,—“Fremantle Hospital, £300,” which he was now directed to place on the present Estimates, in order to fit up a room and to provide the necessary surgical instruments for a cottage hospital at the port. The hon. member Mr. Congdon, the Mayor of the town, was aware of all the circumstances of the case. As a matter of fact, a promise had been made to the Fremantle people that when the lease or rental of the present building was up, improved hospital accommodation would be provided; and it was now proposed to fit up a portion of the Immigration Dépôt for this purpose.

MR. SHENTON said he had no intention to oppose the vote, on the distinct understanding that there should be no increase of salary to the resident medical officer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said his instructions were only to ask for this sum, for the purpose of establishing a hospital, and it would be expended entirely, so far as he was aware, in fitting up that institution. There was no provision made for any increase of salary; but he presumed there would have to be a hospital orderly.

MR. SCOTT thought they might well postpone this vote until next year, and see whether the state of the finances would not admit of such a charge upon them. He acknowledged the necessity for a hospital at Fremantle, but he thought there were other works that were more urgent.

MR. MARMION said that the want of an institution of this kind at Fremantle had been felt for a long time, the present accommodation being a crying shame. It was hardly credible that at the principal port of the colony there should be no means of properly treating any cases of accident which might occur, the wretched room now set apart for that purpose being utterly unfit to enable cases to be attended to in a manner consonant with the dictates of humanity. Every centre of settlement in the colony had its hos-

pital accommodation—some of them having cost thousands of pounds—but Fremantle, the second town of importance in the colony, and the principal port of the colony, in which by far the largest number of accidents were likely to occur, had no means of treating the unfortunate victims of such accidents. He thought it was a disgrace to the Government and to the country that this state of things should have been allowed to remain so long, and he hoped, for the credit of their common humanity, hon. members would not allow it to remain so any longer.

MR. PEARSE was sorry to think there should have been the slightest opposition shown to the voting of this small amount for such a worthy object, which could only be looked upon as a work of charity. Accidents were of frequent occurrence, and no means were available for treating the unfortunate sufferers. Some most harrowing scenes had occurred in consequence of this lack of decent accommodation, and, in many instances, the unfortunate victims, writhing in agony, had to be sent up to Perth before they could be properly attended to. This had been a crying want at Fremantle for years, and it would be to the credit of the House to pass the vote without opposition.

MR. A. FORREST said he intended to oppose it at any rate,—though he was sorry to do so. But he thought the time had arrived when the Medical Department—which was a constantly growing one—should be overhauled. The expenditure was increasing every year, as regular as a clock, and it now amounted to no less a sum than £14,500. He noticed that there was an increase in nearly every item under the head of “Contingencies.” Surely the population of the colony had not increased in the same ratio as this vote had increased of late years.

MR. CONGDON said a promise had been made to the Fremantle people that this most pressing want should be supplied. Letters and petitions had been sent to the Government, over and over again, asking for the establishment of a small cottage hospital in the town, which was really very much called for. He would point out to hon. members that Fremantle being the terminus of the railway all the workshops were there, and, being

the principal shipping port of the colony, it had its wharves and its jetties, and consequently there was more liability to accident there than at any other place in the colony. Yet only the most wretched accommodation had been provided for treating those who might suddenly receive some dreadful hurt. The shipping business at Fremantle was rapidly increasing, and proved a fertile source of accident, and so occasionally had the extensive railway establishment, where there were a large number of workmen employed. He remembered, not long ago, at the request of Dr. Hope, going to see a poor fellow who had met with a frightful accident on the jetty. He was lying in a miserable room, without any comfort or convenience, and there were no surgical appliances—not even a bandage—at hand to enable the simplest operation to be performed to alleviate his sufferings. Eventually the poor wretch—who was a seaman—had to be conveyed to Perth, before his injuries could be attended to. After the initial expenses had been incurred, this hospital would be no drain upon public funds—except perhaps the wages of an orderly—the Fremantle medical men having generously offered their services without remuneration. The present state of affairs was simply disgraceful, and he hoped every hon. member would support this vote.

MR. VENN said he understood there was already a casualty ward at Fremantle, and that the representatives of the town had stated, when the money was voted for that purpose, that they would be satisfied with a casualty ward. This was only a year or two ago. Now they wanted a hospital. He really could not understand this *ad misericordiam* appeal to the House to create another institution. He was quite willing to vote £500 or £1,000, or whatever was necessary to provide proper hospital accommodation; but let them know precisely what the Fremantle people required, and not be asked year after year for these little additions.

MR. MARMION said this was not a question of the Fremantle people but a question of common humanity. The question was whether this colony was going to allow this stain upon it—this disgrace he might say—that at its principal shipping port there should be no means of treat-

ing those who were the victims of some terrible accident. Accidents, as a matter of fact, occurred there with too frequent regularity, and, by reason of there being no means of local treatment, much terrible suffering and risk of life resulted. He thought Fremantle, by right, was entitled to a hospital that would require hundreds of pounds annually to maintain it; but all they now asked for was a paltry £300, to supply the barest necessary accommodation. He felt ashamed of any hon. member of that House attempting to place any obstacle in the way of this small vote. Had hon. members witnessed the scenes of horror he had witnessed, had they seen the agonies suffered by the victims of frightful accidents, and no means at hand of alleviating these agonies, they would require no *ad misericordiam* appeal to their feelings, but, in the interests of common humanity, would have allowed this vote to pass unchallenged.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said he was very happy to say, as he believed he had said on a former occasion, that he did not represent any constituency, and therefore he was neither prejudiced in favor of the particular constituency which he might have represented, nor prejudiced against any constituency which he did not represent. But he felt it his duty, on this occasion, to say a few words. He had an opportunity, not long ago, of going with His Excellency and others to look into this question of hospital accommodation at Fremantle; and when he saw the little den which afforded the only accommodation for any poor fellow who might have his legs cut off, or have sustained some dreadful accident, his heart bled, for he felt that anything would be better than such a place as that,—bare of the commonest necessities. It was not a Fremantle question at all; it was a question, as had been already said, of humanity; and what astonished him more than anything was that the junior member for Perth, who was known as an eminent doctor, should oppose this vote, for the hon. member must know that the danger to a man who had met with an accident was doubled by two removals, instead of one, and that very often the question of life or death depended upon instant treatment.

MR. SCOTT said it must be perfectly well known to all hon. members that appeals like these stirred up their feelings and excited their sympathies; but, looking at the question from a practical and matter-of-fact point of view, was it likely that they could afford to have a hospital convenient to the scene of every accident that might happen? Even in London, with all its magnificent hospitals, people had to be carried for miles before they could be treated. What we wanted was a well-established hospital available for the whole colony, which he tried to get a year or two ago. What were they going to do, after all, with £300? No practical good at all. It would relieve no great amount of suffering, and provide for little accommodation for a town like Fremantle. He would sooner see the people of Fremantle relying a little upon their own resources, in the matter of providing hospital accommodation. He was afraid this was only the thin end of the wedge for the establishment of another local institution.

MR. HENSMAN hoped the committee would pass the vote. At present this colony had not got to that stage when its inhabitants could afford to support such institutions as these out of private contributions, as was done in a wealthy country like England. All that was asked was that there should be some decent place provided where a person who had received some terrible accident could be taken, and be decently attended to by the doctors on the spot, until he could be safely removed to the larger hospital at Perth. He should have been glad if a larger sum had been asked, for he feared that £300 would not be sufficient to make this hospital at all efficient.

MR. SHOLL objected to items like this being sprung upon them in this way; he thought the least the Government could have done was to have placed this sum on the Estimates, with the other votes, so that members might have had an opportunity of considering it, before being asked to pass it. They had no information as to the staff likely to be required for this hospital, and what its upkeep would cost. It would appear from what some hon. members had said that it was only in the centres of civilisation that people met with accidents, and

required their sufferings immediately attended to. Fremantle was only distant twelve miles from Perth, and connected by rail, and it wouldn't take long to bring a person who had met with an accident to the Colonial Hospital; whereas, in many outlying districts, they had no hospital accommodation within reach at all. He felt certain that this was only the insertion of the thin end of the wedge, and that next year it would be found that £300 had not proved sufficient, and another vote would be asked for.

The motion to add the item was then put and passed; and the vote for the department agreed to.

Harbor and Light Department, £6,118:
Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Administration of Justice, £16,104:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) moved that the item "Clerk to Attorney General, £150," be reduced by £50, and the item "Clerk to Crown Solicitor, £125," be increased by £25. The clerk to the Crown Solicitor resigned some time ago, and the Attorney General had arranged with the Crown Solicitor to transfer his own clerk to the Crown Solicitor's office, and to content himself with the services of a junior clerk, at £100 a year. He might add that these appointments in the future would only be made provisionally.

MR. SHENTON said, if he remembered rightly, some similar arrangement was made a few years ago, but when a new Attorney General came he objected to it, and they were called upon to provide some additional salaries.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said he had given up the services of his highly experienced clerk to the Crown Solicitor particularly on account of the public business. He felt that in justice to the Crown Solicitor—whose appointment was a permanent one, whereas the Attorney General, being a member of the Administration, might go in and out of office,—as the work in his office was harder, he should have an experienced clerk at a higher salary, and that he (the Attorney General), in order that there might be no additional expense cast upon the colony, would be satisfied with the services of a junior clerk at a lower salary. The position of clerk to the Crown Solicitor being of more importance, and the office being a

non-political and therefore a permanent one, he had thought that in justice to his own clerk, who had had considerable experience, his position ought to be secured, at a little advance in his salary.

MR. HENSMAN said he did not at all agree with the Attorney General that the clerk to the Crown Solicitor was a more important office than the clerk to the Attorney General. He might have to do different work, but it was not more important.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said all his clerk had to do was to copy his "opinions," and, when he was fortunate enough to get a guinea fee, to pocket his half-a-crown.

MR. HENSMAN was sorry to hear that was all the Attorney General's clerk had to do. But as to the respective importance of the two offices, he thought the clerk to the Attorney General was the more important of the two. The Attorney General's salary was £600, or four times that of his clerk, whereas the salary of the Crown Solicitor was only £300,—or only just half as much again as what his clerk was to receive; which he thought was out of proportion. It was not a question of the present holder of the office, but of the office itself; and, for his part, he failed to see why the Crown Solicitor should have a superior clerk to the Attorney General.

MR. SHOLL thought that instead of reducing the salary of the clerk to the Attorney General as proposed, they might as well leave the amount as it stood. Next year they would have the Government appealing to them to increase it again.

The motion to amend the items as proposed by the Colonial Secretary was agreed to.

MR. SHOLL, referring to the items "Government Resident, West Kimberley, £500," and "Government Resident, East Kimberley, £500," said he believed both these officers were at the present time down in this part of the colony. He should like to ask who were performing their duties during their absence? Were the Government satisfied with those who were acting as these two Magistrates' substitutes? Were they satisfied that they were fit for the position—that they were sober, steady, and possessed of some little judicial experience; or were

they mere strangers in the district? There had been some strange rumours about one of these gentlemen.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said there were times and opportunities when questions of this kind should be asked; and he did not see that they in any way related to the vote now before the committee.

MR. SHENTON thought this was the proper time for asking such questions, when they were voting the salaries of these officers. There had been some very strange rumours as to the conduct of one of these acting officials.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the Government Resident for West Kimberley had been on leave of absence, and would return very shortly to his duties; meanwhile, he believed, they were being carried on in a proper manner. The other Government Resident had come down here on sick leave, and a provisional arrangement had been made with the resident medical officer to fulfil his duties during his absence.

MR. SHENTON asked whether the appointment of the acting Government Resident at West Kimberley had met with the approval of the Executive?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the Government Resident when he came down here on leave was obliged to make the best arrangement he could for the performance of his duties during his absence, and he reported to the Government that he had done so.

MR. SHOLL said these were very important districts, and the Government should endeavor to obtain the services of the very best men they could to fill these acting appointments. He had very good reason to believe that neither of these acting officials was a fit and proper person to undertake such important duties. He did not think it ought to be left to an officer going on leave to appoint his own successor, unless the Government approved of the appointment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) asked how the Government, at this distance from Kimberley, could do these things exactly as they would wish, without telegraph communication with the district. In both these cases there had been difficulties, but he

hoped they would not recur. He might add that a report reached the Government a short time ago that the officer acting at West Kimberley was not discharging his duties altogether properly, and a substitute was appointed—Mr. Inspector Lodge, who had recently gone up there, and been authorised to supersede him.

MR. HENSMAN thought it was very necessary it should be known that that House would not vote salaries for acting Magistrates who did not conduct themselves, and who, if brought before a magistrate themselves, would probably be rebuked, or perhaps get something more than a rebuke. A man who got drunk—for it was no use mincing matters—or who conducted himself in such a way as to be held up to public scorn, instead of being an example to other people—was not fit to sit on a judicial bench.

MR. A. FORREST said he, the representative of the district, had not heard a word of complaint as to the conduct of either of these acting officials. He believed their conduct had, on the whole, been good, or fairly good. The officer particularly referred to was an old officer and an old gentleman, and had done good work in the district. He might take a glass now and then; but he did not think any hon. member should make charges or insinuations against any public officer unless he was in a position to prove them. He believed this particular officer was as fit as most Government officers were to occupy a position in the public service.

The departmental vote was then passed.

Police Department, £39,929 6s. :

MR. PARKER: I only rise to say that it must be a source of satisfaction to all hon. members to find the great reduction made by the head of the department in this estimate. Last year's estimate was £47,005, and the Commissioner now estimates that his expenditure for the current year will be less than £40,000. I think that officer has done his best to bring his force within reasonable limits, without impairing its efficiency; and I do not think anything we can do in the way of reducing the vote now asked for would be calculated to benefit the public, and I hope the vote will be allowed to pass as it stands.

The vote was agreed to, without further comment.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 22nd March, 1888.

Particulars respecting vote for Telegraph repairs—Estimated cost of running the Bunbury-Blackwood Railway—Repairs of Police (Penitentiary) Barracks—Mail Services between Perth and Vasse—Estimates (Revised), 1888: further considered—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

PARTICULARS RESPECTING VOTE FOR TELEGRAPH REPAIRS.

MR. PEARSE (for Mr. Shenton) asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a return showing—(1.) How the sum of £4,500 voted for telegraph repairs in 1887 had been expended, and (2.) how it was proposed to expend the vote (£1,700) on the Estimates for 1888.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) laid on the table the return asked for; also a return showing the cost of the conveyance of inland mails by contract and agreement.

ESTIMATED COST OF WORKING THE BUNBURY-BLACKWOOD RAILWAY.

MR. VENN asked the Commissioner of Railways to lay upon the table the estimated cost for running the first section of the Bunbury-Blackwood railway, showing the number of employes and the rates of wages, for twelve months.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) laid on the table the return asked for.