

"numbers have been so drawn and announced, the said Sheriff shall prepare two lists of those names with the numbers as they are written in the jurors book, and shall deliver one list to the plaintiff and another to the defendant or their respective attorneys; and the twenty names contained in the lists so delivered shall be thereupon reduced to two names more than the number agreed on as the number of which such Jury shall consist, and thereupon the like proceedings for summoning the said Jury, and their attendance and the drawing their names at the trial, shall be had as are by the 29th Section of the said Act prescribed for a Special Jury of twelve."

Clause agreed to, without discussion.
Preamble and title agreed to, and Bill reported.

DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND SUBSTANCES BILL.

This Bill was re-committed, pursuant to Mr. Brown's motion on the 18th August.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 2 reverted to.

MR. STEERE—in the absence of Mr. Stone, who was Chairman of the Select Committee to whom the Bill was referred and reported upon (*Vide* proceedings of August 13th)—moved, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, That clause 2 be struck out. He understood that the Government did not intend to offer any opposition to the motion; consequently he would content himself by formally moving that the clause be expunged.

Agreed to.

Clause 3 reverted to:

MR. STEERE also moved that this clause be struck out, in pursuance of the Select Committee's recommendation.

Motion agreed to, and clause struck out.

Bill reported.

SUPREME COURT BILL.

This Bill was further considered in Committee.

Clause 6 read:

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) said it would

probably be in the recollection of hon. members that inasmuch as the House, on the 20th August, had adopted a resolution providing for the contingency of the appointment of more than one Judge, it had become necessary to alter the wording of the Bill in several parts, material only so far as they were affected by the introduction of the principle referred to. With that view he had prepared a large number of amendments in manuscript, with which, he apprehended, it would not be necessary to encumber the notice paper or the minutes of their proceedings. The principle of the Bill was in no way affected by these amendments, which were merely verbal and grammatical.

Clause 6, as amended, was then agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 32—agreed to.

Preamble and title agreed to, and Bill reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 24th August, 1880.

Colonial Secretary's and Works Departments: Report of Select Committee—Recognition of services rendered by Alexander Forrest and Party—Message (No. 11) from His Excellency the Governor—Salary and allowance of Deputy Surveyor General—Municipal Institutions Act, 1878, Amendment Bill: first reading—Amendment of Scab in Sheep Act—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S AND WORKS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. STEERE brought up the following report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the proposed expenditure in the Colonial Secretary's Department and in the Public Works' Department, for the year 1881:

"Your Committee have examined Mr. Phillips, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Laurence Eliot, the First Clerk and Registrar General, whose evidence is attached hereto; (*Vide* 'Votes and Proceedings.' Printed Paper, A 7, page 4) and they have to report to Your Honorable House as follows:—

"They are of opinion that the services of the First Clerk and Registrar might be advantageously dispensed with in the Colonial Secretary's Office, and the work in this office could be efficiently performed with the Staff of Clerks provided for in the Estimates for 1881, independent of this officer; and they recommend that the complement of officers and their salaries should be that recommended by the Assistant Colonial Secretary, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Assistant Colonial Secretary	400	0	0
Second Clerk	200	0	0
Clerk and Registrar	150	0	0
Probation Clerk	60	0	0
Office Keeper	100	0	0
Messenger	42	0	0
Housekeeper	40	0	0
Contingencies	25	0	0
Total	1027	0	0

"The Probation Clerk is, in the opinion of Your Committee, required for the year 1881, in consequence of the Colonial Secretary about to arrive being new to the duties of his office, but they do not recommend it as a permanent appointment.

"It is not proposed by Your Committee that the services of Mr. Eliot should be dispensed with altogether, but they think that some re-arrangement should be made by the Government so as to permit of Mr. Eliot's Office being removed from that of the Colonial Secretary, as it is in the opinion of Your Committee a bad principle to have an officer in any department where he holds the position of a subordinate, and is at the same time, the head of a department, as in the case of Mr. Eliot. It seems to be quite feasible to again combine the offices of the Registrar General and the Secretary of the Board of Education, and this appears to be an economical arrangement to make.

"Your Committee, in conclusion, desire to express their opinion that when a gentleman, not in the permanent service of the Government, is appointed to an

office during the temporary transference of the occupant of such office, it should be on the distinct understanding that any gentleman so employed should have no claim to consider himself on the fixed establishment.—JAS. G. LEE STEERE, Chairman."

"Your Committee have examined the Director of Public Works, the Clerk of Works, and the Chief Clerk, and the evidence of these officers is attached to this report. [*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," Printed Paper A 7, page 5.]

"Your Committee have ascertained that there is no person in the department performing the duties of Clerk and Storekeeper, and that such an officer will not be required during the year 1881, and there is therefore no necessity for the sum of £80 being provided as a salary for this office.

"The Director of Public Works expressed himself strongly against any other reduction being made in the staff of his department; and on being pressed by Your Committee as to whether it would not be possible to reduce the estimate of £3000 for the working expenses of the Northern Railway, he emphatically declared that if any lesser sum was appropriated for this purpose he would not be responsible for the safe working of the line, the expenses connected with which were in his opinion, less than on any other line of railway with which he was acquainted.

"The Director of Public Works further stated that in his opinion the railway between Fremantle and Guildford would be completed and handed over to the Government not later than February next, and that under these circumstances the whole amount estimated would be required for the working expenses of this line.—JAS. G. LEE STEERE, Chairman."

The report of the Select Committee was ordered to be printed.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICES OF ALEXANDER FORREST AND PARTY.

MR. VENN, in accordance with notice moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, for the purpose of considering a resolution praying that His Excellency may

"be pleased to recommend that a grant of land be made to Mr. Alexander Forrest, and the members of his party, in recognition of their services in connection with the recent exploration of our Northern territory."

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. VENN said: Sir—Never did a member come before this House with a motion that should—and I hope will—receive at the hands of this honorable House such sympathy and support as this. The reason of its being so, I shall endeavor to explain without detaining the House very long; at the same time I crave the close attention of honorable members in order that the position I have taken up may be clearly understood. In glancing at the past history of Australian explorations, we see that honor has been freely accorded to the explorer in all the colonies; and among the names of those who have achieved great fame and have done lasting service to the Australian Colonies, we find those of Burke and Wills, of McKinlay, the Gregorays, Sturt, Warburton, Giles, and last, but not least, the Forrests. These men—paid at the time either by their Government, or by private enterprise—have penetrated the arcana of the Australian continent, and have successfully solved many of the mysterious problems that enveloped the interior. Succeeding in their footsteps, came the squatter, and we now see and read of vast tracts of country flourishing under the civilising influence of settlement—country that possibly would have remained a *terra incognita* to this day but for the exertions of these men. Hence I say the colonies owe, and have ever been ready to pay, a debt of honor to the explorer. If we read the journals of these men, it brings to us, who stay at home, wholesome and profitable lessons of determination, patience, and endurance,—the greatest and noblest virtues that can adorn mankind. Hence great and everlasting honor has been paid them; and, to those who never returned to tell the tale of their labors, fitting tributes to their memories have been raised, to mark their worth, and to keep their names alive in future generations. Everywhere we see that above the ordinary payment for labor and time, special acknowledg-

ment has justly been accorded to the successful explorer, while the unsuccessful has to be content with only the pay, and hopes not realised. Referring back to the debates in this House, I find that, in 1878, the Colonial Secretary asked for a sum of money for further exploration in the North, to carry out a proposition made by Mr. Alex. Forrest. The sum of £1,000 was asked, and after the debate a division resulted in favor of no definite sum being fixed; the Legislature, while approving the proposition, wisely left the hands of the Government unfettered by figures. This action was characteristic of this honorable House with regard to exploration, as it enabled the Government to make liberal provision for the general outfit, as on all previous occasions—although at the same time I am bound to add that over and above what the Government did, the liberality of the settlers of the North forms a prominent feature in connection with this expedition. They came forward cheerfully to supplement the outfit of the party, and I need hardly say that a good outfit is a very necessary adjunct to the success of exploration. Now, Sir, I am aware that some hon. members will this evening take exception to the course pursued by Mr. Alex. Forrest, but I hope during my remarks I may anticipate those objections, and thus rob them of the importance they might possess in coming from members in opposition, direct. It will, Sir, be necessary to consider the instructions issued by the then Acting Surveyor General, and then follow the diary to see how those instructions were carried out; and I hope hon. members have read both the instructions and the diary carefully, and will confine themselves to the absolute facts therein stated, and not be led to illogical conclusions by not knowing their ground. I say this because I am disposed to think some members have been led to form impressions that should not exist. Now, Sir, these instructions are very clear as to general matters, but no man, I think, could read them without feeling that, after shadowing out a course of action that would certainly take months to accomplish, the 8th clause distinctly enjoins that at a very early stage of the journey, he (Mr. Forrest) should decide what course he intended to take, by

writing from Beagle Bay—the place from whence the real exploration would commence. Had it said Collier Bay, and had a vessel been there to replenish their stores, and to take back the reports from there, the matter would have been different; but the instruction clearly suggests that from Beagle Bay he should write. Now, Sir, what do we find? After leaving Beagle Bay they struck for the West side of King's Sound, and I may here state that throughout the journey a species of reconnaissance survey was made by the gallant leader of the party by means of a rough triangulation, thus carrying out literally his instructions in that particular, and not making a rapid flying trip through the bush. Skirting the Gulf or Sound, we follow them up the banks of the Fitzroy, 240 miles inland, and from thence,—still following out, to the letter, the instructions—they leave the Fitzroy, and strike along the coast in the direction of the Glenelg and abreast of Collier Bay. Here the Leopold Ranges obstructed their course, and we find them travelling under the most difficult conditions—sore eyes, illness in the camp, and, above all, a very rough, stony, (though grassy) country. Let us now endeavor to put ourselves in their place. Let us undertake day after day the same wearying task under a tropical sun, using every effort to cross these ranges—and every day fail—and what would we do? We see them making from four to eight miles per day—sometimes less—and yet no signs of retreat. Road-making and every description of hardship that an exploring party could encounter, beset them; and from the diary we find that it was not until the 21st June that any doubt as to the ultimate success of their efforts arose. Even then the fears of the party were more on account of the horses than of themselves. Although sick and wearied, they still journeyed along the coast, undaunted by the difficulties encountered. One of the great objects of the trip was to follow up the different rivers along the coast—the Fitzroy, the Glenelg, Prince Regent River, and others towards Cambridge Gulf, and, after examining the country in that locality, and when near the 129° of longitude, to decide whether to return and further examine and note the features of the country, or

proceed to Port Darwin. That was possibly the original idea; and will hon. members rise up here this evening and pass judgment on what they did do? Will they say they should have tried more? Is there a man in this Colony that would have done more than these brave fellows did in those grim ranges? The Leopold Ranges were practically impassable, and these men—"colonials," too—did their level best, and when they failed they failed with honor, but also with disappointment—real genuine disappointment. Possibly, had a boat met them at Collier Bay, and replenished their supplies, and thus enabled them to recruit their horses for a fortnight or so, further efforts in face of failure might have been made. They might have again risked and possibly forfeited their lives amid the silent gloom of those dreadful gorges. The disappointment they felt was, I mean to say, a severe one to themselves, because no doubt it would have been more congenial to their tastes and inclinations to have skirted the rivers named, and thus to have completely explored the country between Collier Bay and Cambridge Gulf, and thence to Port Darwin. The great reason why they should go to Port Darwin at all was simply this—that having once penetrated so far into the interior, it was safer for the party to go on to Port Darwin than to return, as the supplies would not last until they reached the nearest settlement of this Colony, the DeGrey. Hence, going to Port Darwin offered the only alternative—failure or success. One great object of the expedition having been found to be beyond their reach, they had to decide what was the next best thing to do. To have returned direct from Collier Bay to the Fitzroy, and noted simply the features of the intervening country, would doubtless have been cruelly disappointing to them; it would moreover have appeared a failure, and as such called forth possibly the indignation of the public; and thus all the éclat of a successful trip, performed amidst great hardships, would have been lost to them. Hence I applaud the determination and conclusion arrived at, as being, under the circumstances, the next best thing to do. And I maintain that the result has

perfectly justified them. Day after day we follow them through splendid pastoral lands—millions of acres, out of the track, although in the vicinity, of explored land it is true, yet none the less new, and adding each day to our geographical knowledge, until the 129th degree of longitude is reached. The rest I leave untold. The weary travel under short allowance, on foot, may and will, I hope, tell its own tale to hon. members, and seal their lips from preferring a charge of disobedience of orders against the leader of this expedition. The same endurance and perseverance was tried in the Leopold Ranges, but failed; and then, Sir, without camels—those wonderful auxiliaries to exploration—these genuine sons of the soil reached Port Darwin. Think of Giles' trip, of Major Warburton's—why they sink into insignificance when compared with this exploit. And its results? Twenty-five millions of acres thrown open for settlement, in this great and glorious province of Western Australia. Now, Sir, out of these twenty-five million acres, I come to-night to ask a little for those who discovered them. Hon. members all know what precedents there are for making such grants, and therefore I shall not have to establish that fact. This I ask over and above the ordinary payment they have received, and I hope—nay, I feel sure—the unanimous vote of this House will be recorded in favor of this resolution, thereby showing the world that Western Australia, like other countries, values and honors the labors of her sons. Had my own wishes been consulted, I should have preferred a direct money grant; but considering that members require all the money they can get for railway extension, I considered it better to sink my own wishes. Again, a right of free selection over Western Australia would meet with so much opposition, and is so calculated to impair the revenue, that I was driven to ask for this land in the Kimberley District. It is not what I should have wished, but still, as I am firmly of opinion that that district will ere long be among the most flourishing in Western Australia, I hope the grant that hon. members will now recommend will be of some lasting benefit to Mr. Forrest and his party. As the explorations of Gre-

gory brought us settlers from the other colonies to Nickel Bay, so will, without doubt, Forrest's explorations do likewise. Sir, in conclusion, I beg to move the following resolution, to which however I understand an amendment will be proposed, which may meet with greater support. In either case, my object will be attained: "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to recommend to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, that a grant of land be made to Mr. Alexander Forrest of 8,000 acres, to Mr. Fenton Hill 2,000 acres, J. Campbell 2,000 acres, Jas. Carey 2,000 acres, A. Hicks 2,000 acres, and to M. Forrest of 2,000 acres in the Kimberley District, in recognition of their services during the late North-West Exploration Expedition."

Mr. BROWN did not know to whom the hon. member referred when he spoke of any members who were likely to get up to say that Mr. Alex. Forrest had failed in his duty, or so acted that that House should refuse to assent to the proposed recognition of his services. He (Mr. Brown) professed to know something of the duties and of the responsibilities that devolved upon the leader and the members of an exploring expedition, and, in his belief, the services rendered to this Colony by Mr. Alex. Forrest, not alone in connection with his more recent exploit, but in connection with exploration generally, were such as demanded a recognition at the hands of the Legislature of the Colony. He would go further and say that, being fond of exploration himself, he had made the labours of explorers his study, and he believed that Mr. Alex. Forrest—however much or however little he may have erred, or departed from his instructions, on the occasion referred to—performed one of the most arduous tasks which had ever been successfully carried out by any explorer in the Colony. He said so advisedly. He believed Mr. Robert Austin went through as great hardships years ago—for which he received no recognition at all; but his was not a successful expedition as Mr. Forrest's was. [The hon. member then proceeded to review the instructions given to Mr. Forrest, on the occasion referred to, and to point out how those

instructions had been in some respects departed from, owing in a great measure to their not having been more explicit.] As to the form of recognition which the House should offer to Mr. Forrest for his conspicuous services, he thought the only practicable way in which they could show their appreciation of those services was by means of a grant of land. He quite agreed with the honorable member who had brought forward this motion, that the House would not be justified in giving Mr. Forrest the right of free selection in any part of the Colony, as had been done in other cases, but that his right of selection should be confined to the district where his discoveries were made. He should most cordially support the proposition that a grant of land in that district should be given to the leader of the expedition, and, in view of the great services which Mr. Forrest had rendered to this Colony, not only in connection with his latest expedition, but on former occasions, he thought he was justly entitled to at least 10,000 acres—not however in any locality he pleased, but in any part of the district not less than say twenty miles from the sea coast. As to whether they should consider the services of the other members of the party, so far as to ask the Secretary of State to grant them 2000 acres each, he thought that was a question requiring the gravest consideration. He feared, if entertained by the House, it would very much indeed jeopardise Mr. Forrest's own chance of obtaining such a recognition of his services as he deserved. He regarded those services, and the services rendered to the Colony by the members of the expedition, in a very different light. What the members of the party did was as nothing compared with what the leader of the expedition—on whom all the responsibility and all the anxiety inseparable from such labors—had done; and he would prefer to see the services of his followers recognised in a different way,—say a money grant. He would therefore propose as an amendment upon the original motion: "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he may be pleased to communicate to Her Majesty's Secretary of State the desire of this Council that a grant in fee of ten thousand acres of land, situated not

"less than twenty miles from the sea coast, in the Kimberley District, may be made to Mr. Alexander Forrest, in recognition of his valuable services in the cause of exploration in various portions of Western Australia, and particularly in connection with his recent exploration of the territory lying between Beagle Bay and Port Darwin; such land to be selected by Mr. Forrest within twelve months of the date of notification to Mr. Forrest of the Secretary of State's sanction to the grant being made to him."

Mr. SHENTON said he would be very happy to give the amendment his support; at the same time, he should like to record his opinion as to the way in which the wishes of the House had—or rather had not been—carried out. He thought if that Council voted money for purposes of exploration, it was not for the attainment of scientific or geographical objects, but simply to find out the capabilities of the land in our own territory. He did not blame Mr. Forrest—the blame, if any, rested with those who prepared the instructions which were to guide him, and which were not in accordance with the expressed wish of the House.

Mr. STEERE felt some diffidence in speaking on this subject, as he was not in the House when the question of this expedition was discussed. There certainly was a loophole left open to Mr. Forrest to enable him to proceed to Port Darwin, in the event of certain contingencies happening, and Mr. Forrest appeared to have taken advantage of that loophole, and, instead of confining his explorations to our own territory, he decided upon pushing through to Port Darwin. It was not his (Mr. Steere's) intention to oppose the proposition before the Committee, for it could not be said that Mr. Forrest had acted contrary to his instructions, and possibly there were few men who would have surmounted the many hardships and difficulties which Mr. Forrest had encountered, and successfully. No doubt his services fully entitled him to some recognition at the hands of the House.

Mr. GRANT thought what was proposed to be done, so far, in the way of recognising those services amounted in reality to nothing. It was suggested

that they should give Mr. Forrest a grant of land, but a grant of land where? In a district where land would be of no value for the next ten or twelve years—judging by the rate at which settlement had advanced in other districts in that part of the country. As the old proverb said—"while the grass is growing the horse is starving." To give these men a grant of land in the Kimberley District would, as he had already said, be giving them nothing of any present value; and some of those men were needy men, and wanted something they could start to work with, without delay. As to confining the recognition of the services rendered by Mr. Forrest to a selection in that district, he failed to see why any exception should be made in his case from what had been done in other instances. These men had all risked their lives, and had done more good to the Colony than any other explorers that he knew of—ten times more. They had discovered twenty-five millions of acres of magnificent country for pastoral purposes, and thus added considerably to the wealth of the Colony; and why should any invidious exception be made in their case? Why not give them land where they could utilise it, as had been done in other cases where the services of the explorers had been recognised? They allowed Mr. John Forrest to select his grant of land in any part of the Colony, in consideration of his services in the cause of exploration; but John Forrest's services were nothing to be compared in value to the services rendered by Alick Forrest.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had listened with a great deal of interest to the debate that had followed upon the resolution, but the aspect of the question before the Committee had very considerably changed since the notice of motion was first tabled; and before touching upon that, he thought it was due to himself and to Mr. Forrest that he should revert to the original resolution affirmed by the House prior to the starting of the expedition, and to Mr. Forrest's own outline of the journey which he was anxious to undertake, as furnished to him (the Commissioner) on the 8th April, 1878. What Mr. Forrest proposed was this: that the expedition

should start from the DeGrey River, to explore the whole of the country seaward of the watershed of the rivers running into the North Coast, as far as the Victoria River, and thence on to Port Darwin. That was the proposition mooted by Mr. Forrest, and he (the Commissioner) had dealt with it in a memorandum which would be found among the records of the House during the Session of 1878. Unfortunately, however, circumstances had prevented him being present in the House when the subject was under discussion, and the vote taken to cover the cost of the expedition; and the matter, in his absence, was brought forward by his hon. colleague, the Colonial Secretary. On referring to *Hansard*, Vol. III., p. 264, he found that the following resolution was submitted for the affirmation of the House: "That the Government be authorised to expend a sum not exceeding £1,000 on the exploration of the district North of the 19th parallel of South latitude." It was apparent, on reference to the debate which took place on that occasion, that the intention of the House was that the country which was subsequently explored by Mr. Forrest should be explored, and it could not be said that he went beyond what was the intention of the Council. In reading the instructions given to Mr. Forrest by the then Acting Surveyor General, he could not see how it could be said that it had not been left an open question to Mr. Forrest to do what he had done, and to follow the course which he took. Reports of the progress of the expedition reached head quarters from time to time, and were made public, and when at last the welcome telegram came from Port Darwin announcing the arrival of the party there, he believed he was correct in saying that a thrill of satisfaction was felt throughout the Colony at the success of the expedition, the prevailing feeling being that Mr. Forrest had done his work bravely, and had done his work well. The exploit was thus referred to in the speech with which His Excellency Governor Ord closed the Session of 1879: "The short account that we have received of Mr. A. Forrest's Expedition shows that that officer has successfully carried out the important duty with which he was entrusted. The ability and perseverance displayed,

"under trying circumstances and great hardships, have met the reward they deserved, and Mr. A. Forrest has the satisfaction of announcing the discovery of large tracts of well-watered land suitable for pastoral and agricultural purposes. Although full details are yet wanting, enough is known to justify the Government in expressing, in its own name and on behalf of the Colony, its gratification at the manner in which Mr. Forrest and the officers and men of his party have executed the duty with which they were charged, and offer to them its cordial thanks. Mr. A. Forrest has added one more to the many important explorations with which Western Australia is already credited, and has well maintained the distinguished position which the name he bears holds amongst "Australian Explorers." The impression on the public mind then, and the impression on the mind of the Government, was, that he had performed that which he was sent out to do, and carried out the project in its integrity,—however some hon. members might quibble as to the precise wording of his instructions. No doubt it might be said with truth that if Mr. Forrest, instead of proceeding to Port Darwin had returned to the North-West, he might have accomplished more than he even had accomplished; but none of those who took exception at the course adopted were with the expedition, and no one except those who belonged to the party knew what the exact position of affairs was at the time it was decided to push on to Port Darwin, rather than attempt the home journey. Possibly if arrangements had been made for a vessel to meet the party with supplies at Collier Bay, or some other convenient spot on the coast, so as to enable the party to recruit their strength, they might have been justified in retracing their steps rather than push on to Port Darwin. But having run short of rations, and with the summer season fast coming on, he did not himself wonder that they determined to make an effort to push forward to what might be regarded as their nearest point of destination, seeing that no arrangement for providing them with supplies were made nearer than the DeGrey River. He thought himself that, under these cir-

cumstances, Mr. Forrest could not in any way be justly condemned for the course which he followed. With regard to the motion and the amendment before the Committee, he should be sorry that anything should be done to jeopardise the realisation of what they all wished to bring about, namely, a recognition of Mr. Forrest's services, and until he (the Commissioner) was in a position to make some more authoritative statement on the subject than he was at the present moment, he thought the House would do well to refrain from dealing definitely with the motion that evening. He would therefore suggest that the debate be adjourned until Thursday.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) said: Whatever Alick Forrest does, he does well, and he does thoroughly, according to the best of his abilities and with the means at his disposal. On this occasion he has traversed a continent. He comes back with the information that in the course of his journey he has discovered some very magnificent territory, and everybody believes that he has done so. Thereupon he is duly complimented by his fellow settlers, and now it is proposed to add to the barren praise the solid pudding of reward. I should be very glad indeed to see him get it. But I am afraid that the Council may to a certain extent overshoot their mark, if they prescribe the actual amount to be placed at his disposal, whether in money or land; and I think the Council are fixing his services on a very liberal scale. I do not say that he has not amply earned all that is proposed to do for him, but, at the same time, I think that greater results might have been attained to the Colony if he had been accompanied by a different class of men. His companions were young men, like himself, endowed with great powers of physical endurance—perhaps also of observation; and, as I have said before, they passed over a beautiful and hitherto untraversed part of the Colony. But for all purposes of exploration, the efforts of these men—and the same may be said of the expeditions conducted by Warburton, Ernest Giles, and John Forrest—have not resulted in any addition to the cause of science. We are not furnished upon this occasion with barometrical readings

in the country traversed; we know nothing of the elevation of its watersheds; no thermometrical observations were taken; no botanical report is furnished, and no geological information of any value has been contributed. True there is something of the sort, garnished with geological phrases, but for all practical or scientific purposes—worthless. And we are now asking the Secretary of State to give away what is believed to be valuable, to the leader of this expedition, and you are appraising the services of that officer at the very highest possible scale. We must bear in mind that Mr. Alick Forrest does not profess to be a scientific expert. He does not pretend to be a botanist or a geologist—I am not aware that he can even sketch. He is merely an unsophisticated but very accomplished bushman. He has conducted his party safely through a previously unknown territory, and he comes back and tells us just what a child would tell us who had gone through a meadow of buttercups. Still he has done his duty well—he has done his duty bravely, and I think it is a great pity that he should not have been accompanied by persons who could have taken greater advantage of the facts that lay in their way; for as I have said before, we have not one single fact recorded with reference to the geology of the country traversed. It is true that in some cases Mr. Forrest incidentally mentions the character of the country, and on one occasion he informs us that he visited a red sandstone hill. Now some people, who like myself may have a smattering of geology, may know that red sandstone is not infrequently associated with carboniferous formations, and I have heard it said that one of the members of the party actually discovered what was believed to be coal, on the occasion of their travels, and also indications of tin; but there is not a single allusion to any such discovery in the printed reports of the journey. It may be correct, or it may not be—we have nothing whatever to lead us to a conclusion on the subject one way or the other. We are told nothing of the geological aspect of the country, or of its botanical features, or whether there were indications that the magnificent tract of pastoral land which they discovered is likely to extend any distance,

or not. I think the Council should draw a line, and a well-marked line, between the bravery and skill—the skill of the bushman, the energy and skill of the colonial youth who leads his party, in a bee line, from one point of an unsettled country to another,—and the scientific explorer who comes back furnished with facts that will tell us whether settlement can advantageously or disadvantageously be exercised in the territory he has discovered. At the same time, I shall be very glad indeed to see Mr. Alexander Forrest, as leader of the expedition, well—nay, I may say liberally—rewarded. Whether or not that reward should be extended to his subordinates is not a matter upon which I propose to express an opinion. But I would point out this to the Council—these persons have been well paid and well fed; they had the gratification of doing their duty under Mr. Forrest, and of associating their names with his. And now it is proposed to reward them further—and for what I may call the mere physical exertion of walking and riding—on a scale which I cannot help thinking is totally incommensurate with the reward which it is proposed to give the leader of the party. There is one other matter which I should like to touch upon before I sit down. Hon. members are proposing that a certain grant of land should be made to Mr. Forrest within a certain area; but I think it would be far more likely to meet their views, if the services of the party were simply brought to the notice of the Secretary of State, who would then please himself in the matter, unhampered by the designation of the amount of the reward, and possibly that functionary might be disposed to deal even more liberally with Mr. Forrest than this Council. I do not at any rate think it would be generous, that it would be kind, that it would be fair, to compel Mr. Forrest to take up his land within a certain limited area, as is here proposed. If he were permitted to select land of equivalent value, where he chose, I cannot help thinking it would be far more acceptable to him, and I believe more beneficial to the country.

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

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor, in reply to an Address presented to him with reference to the acquisition of Crown lands by Public Officers.

"In reply to Address No. 18, the Governor communicates to Your Honorable House a copy of instructions which have been recently issued to the Surveyor General with reference to the acquisition of Crown Lands by Public Officers. The Governor has submitted this rule to the Secretary of State, and if approved by His Lordship it will be inserted in the Land Regulations, of which a revised edition is now in course of preparation.

"The Document asked for in Message No. 19 cannot at present be furnished, action thereon by the Government being still incomplete.

"Government House, Perth, 23rd August, 1880."

[Enclosure.]

"No Public Officers shall be allowed to purchase or lease Crown land (other than Town or Suburban Lots) without the permission of the Governor in writing; and no Officer of the Survey Department or Contract Surveyor shall be permitted, under any circumstances, to purchase or lease, or to acquire directly or indirectly any interest in such land."

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER also announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor in reply to Mr. Carey's resolution relative to certain correspondence respecting *Hansard*:

"In compliance with the request contained in the Address of Your Honorable Council, No. 20, of the 20th August, the Governor forwards herewith copy of correspondence relative to the publication of the Debates of the Legislative Council.

"Government House, Perth, 24th August, 1880."

SALARY AND ALLOWANCES OF DEPUTY SURVEYOR GENERAL.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Ad-

dress be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to inform the Council what is the amount of salary and allowances now drawn by the Deputy Surveyor General from Colonial funds; also what salary and allowances the said officer is in receipt of from Imperial funds, and for what period the services of the Deputy Surveyor General are likely to be availed of by the Imperial Government." He noticed on reference to the Estimates for 1881 that the full salary and allowances of this officer as Deputy Surveyor General were provided for; but as he was now employed in the Imperial service, he (Mr. Steere) failed to see how it could possibly be necessary to provide his full salary and allowances in a colonial service as well. At any rate, he thought the House ought to be placed in possession of the information referred to in the resolution.

MR. BROWN pointed out that the House had nothing to do with Imperial funds, but only with the Deputy Surveyor General's emoluments out of colonial funds.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1876. AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) introduced a Bill to further amend "The Municipal Institutions Act, 1876."

Bill read a first time.

SCAB IN SHEEP ACT—AMENDMENT OF.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased, at an early date, to introduce a Bill amending the Scab in Sheep Ordinance, in regard to the amount of the tax imposed as a contribution towards the expenses of the Inspectorate." When the enactments relating to scab in sheep were consolidated last Session, one important provision which was embodied in the original Act was omitted. He referred to the provision under which the contributions paid in respect of sheep were to be devoted to the special purpose of carry-

ing out the provisions of the Act for the eradication of the disease, and, in the event of the contributions being in excess of the requirements of the Ordinance in that respect, the Governor was empowered to reduce the amount of the contribution to be levied. Under the Consolidated Act passed last Session, the section regulating the amount of the yearly contribution fixed the rate at £2 per thousand sheep, and gave no power to the Governor to levy a lesser rate, whether in excess of the requirements of the Act or not. He understood that 30s. per thousand would, under existing circumstances, provide a sufficient revenue to carry out the provisions of the Scab Act, but, as he had already said, under the law, as it stood at present, the Governor had no power to reduce the tax, no matter how much in excess of the requirements of the Ordinance the contributions might be, and the surplus went to swell the general revenue. The omission to insert this provision in the Act passed last Session was, he believed, a mere inadvertence, and was only discovered when the time came to levy the annual contributions. Some hon. members might regard his action in this matter as somewhat inconsistent with his previous action in relation to the revenue, which, as they were aware, he was anxious to see augmented by every legitimate means so as to enable them to undertake the important public works which the country hoped and expected to see carried out. But he would point out that this tax upon sheep was a special rate levied for a particular purpose, and it would be contrary to the spirit of the Act under which it was imposed to levy it for general purposes. He might say that the settlers in all those parts where, through their own exertions, scab had been eradicated, considered it very hard indeed that they should be taxed at all in this shape, and there would be extreme discontent if the amount of the yearly contribution were irrevocably fixed at £2, when 30s. would answer every requirement of the Act. He understood there would be no objection on the part of the Government to the introduction of such a Bill as contemplated in the resolution, inasmuch as its only object was to remedy an omission which was the result of mere inadvertence.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) said, on the contrary, it was done advisedly. It was done designedly, with a view to the contributions derived from this source being paid into the Public Treasury for the purposes of the general revenue. The Inspectors were paid out of the general revenue, and—

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL : Not at all.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake): Are they not? I am glad to hear it. I thought they were.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said the Government were, in fact, pledged to bring in a Bill to amend the Act in the direction indicated. When the matter was brought to the notice of Governor Ord, His Excellency said the omission should be rectified this Session, and His Excellency purposely refrained from bringing the Act into operation until the contributions for this year were paid, in pursuance of the provisions of the original Ordinance.

MR. BROWN said it was somewhat strange that the omission should have escaped all those who were engaged in the preparation and subsequent discussion of the Consolidated Act, but he was free to confess it had certainly escaped his notice, and he had thought the section was a mere transcript of the old Act. The fact of its having escaped the attention of members when the Bill was in Committee was doubtless owing to the fact of the section not having evoked any discussion at all. Governor Ord, he knew, had taken steps to ascertain what the intention of the Legislature was with regard to the clause in question, and when he discovered that it was never intended by the House that the tax should be at a fixed rate, His Excellency delayed bringing the Act into operation so that he might be in a position to levy only such an amount as would answer the requirements of the Act.

MR. MARMION could see no reason why a Bill like this should be brought in at this late period of the Session, when matters of much greater importance were waiting consideration. No very great hardship would be involved, if the Act remained as it is. For his own part he failed to see why this tax should

not be regarded as a portion of the general revenue. The 31st section of the Act provided that, for the purpose of defraying the cost and expense of carrying the Act into effect, there shall in each year be levied and paid in respect of all sheep depastured and kept in any part of the Colony for every 1,000 sheep a contribution of £2, and so on, in proportion, for any greater or smaller number possessed by one owner. Nothing was said about the tax being increased or reduced in accordance with the requirements of the Act. At any rate, he did not think the matter was of such importance that the House should be asked to consider another Bill on the subject at this late period of the Session.

MR. STEERE thought it would be a breach of faith on the part of the Government if they showed any opposition to the motion before the House. No doubt a mistake was committed by whoever prepared the Bill passed last Session, or by somebody else, in omitting to provide that the Governor should be empowered to regulate the amount of the contribution according to existing requirements. So impressed was Governor Ord of the necessity of rectifying the error that, as had already been said, he had purposely refrained from putting the Act in force, in order to enable him to levy a smaller tax than the Act in its present shape allowed him to do, and on the understanding that the Act would be amended in this respect during the present Session. This fact had been brought under the notice of Governor Robinson by himself and others who had waited upon His Excellency on the subject. The Governor favorably entertained the proposal, and he (Mr. Steere) thought a Bill would have been sent down to the House before now, to remedy the omission. He had no doubt if the subject were again mentioned to His Excellency he would consider that he would only be keeping faith with the House if he introduced a Bill for the purpose in question.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake): To-night, the Government is twitted with a breach of promise. Sometimes they are twitted with larceny, but now the indictment is varied, and we are twitted with bad faith. Are we really expected, at this

late period of the Session, to bring in yet another Scab Bill? Hon. members say so. Let them bring their own Bills in.

The motion of the hon. baronet was agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 25th August, 1880.

Extension of Eastern Railway—Audit Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

EXTENSION OF EASTERN RAILWAY.

MR. SHENTON, in moving the resolution which stood in his name, affirming the desirability of extending the railway from Guildford to York, by way of Spencer's Brook, said he thought it would be acknowledged that the subject was one of the most important ones that had been brought before the House that Session, and his only reason for deferring it until now was that he was waiting until the Estimates were submitted, so that hon. members might have an opportunity of judging what expenditure would have to be provided for the ensuing year, and of considering the question of ways and means. The Estimates were now before the House, and he thought there was nothing to be gained by any further postponement of the present resolution. When the Bill for raising the loan for the construction of the first section of the Eastern Railway came before the Council, and was passed, it was never the intention of any single member who supported it that the line should stop at Guildford, but that, as soon as it got to that town, it should