

Mr. SHENTON moved that the proposed plan for the re-organization of the Survey Department be adopted.

Mr. STEERE seconded the motion.

Mr. LOGUE and Mr. GULL opposed it, on the ground that the subject demanded further consideration.

On the motion of Mr. DRUMMOND, progress was eventually reported, and leave obtained to sit again on Monday.

The Council adjourned at 10.45 p.m.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 17th July, 1871.*

Publicans' Petition—Rockingham Timber Company Petition—Refreshment Room: committee report—Exploration Eastward of Hampton Plains: in committee—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: third reading—Survey Department Re-organization: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

The Minutes were read and confirmed.

### PUBLICANS' PETITION.

Mr. STEERE presented a petition from the Licensed Victuallers Association praying that the consideration of the Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the licensing of public houses and the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors be postponed.

The memorial was received and ordered to be read.

### ROCKINGHAM TIMBER COMPANY PETITION.

Mr. NEWMAN presented a petition from the Rockingham Timber Company praying for a remission of the import duty upon their machinery, on the ground that no such charge was in existence, or anticipated, at the time the concessions were made to them by the Government; but as the memorial contained no signature, it was declared to be informal.

### REFRESHMENT ROOM.

Committee Report.

Mr. SHENTON brought up the report and moved that it be read.

Question put and passed.

The report was read.

Mr. STEERE moved that the report be adopted.

Question put and passed.

### EXPLORATION EASTWARD OF HAMPTON PLAINS.

Mr. DRUMMOND, in accordance with notice, moved that the Council do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the following resolution:—

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, requesting that he will sanction the expenditure of a sum not exceeding £200, for the purpose of exploring, during the present exceptionally favorable season, the country to the eastward of the Hampton Plains.

The motion being agreed to, the Speaker left the Chair.

### In Committee.

Mr. DRUMMOND rose and said that the downfall of rain with which the eastern districts of the colony had been blessed this season, rendered it one of the most favorable that had been known for many years for the purpose of exploration, and the settlers of the York and the contiguous districts were desirous to avail themselves of the opportunity. Fresh runs were much needed by the sheep owners, resident in those districts, and they were prepared to do all within their power to render an expedition into the interior successful. There was a general impression that an abundance of excellent land suitable for pasturage was to be found to the eastward of Hampton Plains, and at the urgent request of a large and influential number of sheep and flock-owners he had been induced to submit the resolution which stood in his name for the consideration of the House. He trusted it would meet with general approval.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) in seconding the motion, said that he had himself some time ago, proposed to His Excellency that bonuses be offered for the discovery of fresh springs in the settled eastern districts of the colony. He generally approved of the motion of the hon. member for Toodyay.

Mr. MONGER supported the resolution, and fully concurred in the expression of opinion that the present season was an unusually favorable one for the object in view. He trusted that no opposition would be offered to the motion before the House, and expressed his conviction that the result anticipated would be realized.

Mr. BROWN resisted the motion, on the ground that it was intended to benefit one section of the community only, namely, the squatting interest.

Mr. STEERE said the only objection he could see to the adoption of the motion before the House was that he feared the season was too far advanced for bringing the proposed expedition to a successful issue.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), while regretting that, consequent upon the decrease of the revenue of the colony, and the unforeseen and unavoidable augmentation of public expenditure, he could not give the motion that cordial support which he would otherwise have done; yet, he was by no means desirous of throwing cold water upon the proposition of the hon. member for Toodyay. It would be for the Council to determine, whether in the existing depressed financial condition of the colony, the sum asked for, though small, could be spared.

Mr. NEWMAN expressed his approval of the motion, which, after some further discussion, was affirmed.

#### CONFIRMATION OF EXPENDITURE BILL.

##### Third Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### SURVEY DEPARTMENT RE-ORGANIZATION.

##### In Committee.

##### Resumed debate.

Mr. DRUMMOND, in resuming the debate on the re-organization of the Survey Department, said that since the previous evening's discussions, he had gathered information which led him to support the scheme proposed by the Hon. the Surveyor General. He would therefore move its adoption.

In answer to Mr. Logue,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said it would be impracticable to prepare the Estimates, in a complete form, until the resolution of the House with regard to the proposed plan for the re-organization of the Survey Department had been determined, inasmuch as, at the last session, the supplies for that department were conditionally voted for six months only, or until such time as the House reassembled. It was now necessary that he should be informed what alterations and reductions in the departmental staff would be accepted by the Council, prior to the compilation of the Estimates.

Mr. LOGUE asked the Surveyor General—1. What arrangements would be adopted for checking the work performed by contracting surveyors in the various districts of the colony? 2. Whether he had decided upon a scale of fees to be paid for contract work? 3. Whether any correspondence had taken place between him and the officers whose services it was proposed to dispense with; if so, were they satisfied with the proposed scheme of re-organization and reduction?

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) replied—1. It would be his duty to see that all the work in connection with the department under his control was duly and efficiently performed. 2. No answer. 3. Correspondence had passed between him and the officers referred to, and they expressed their willingness to accede to the proposals contained in the memoranda before the House.

An animated discussion, somewhat personal and invidious, ensued, in which Mr. BROWN, Mr. LOGUE, and Mr. MARMION took a prominent part, the two former defending the claims of those officers whose services it is proposed to dispense with, and the latter contending that the contemplative compensation was calculated on a fair and equitable scale.

The motion was then agreed to, and the proposed plan for the re-organization of the Survey Department will, on the motion of the Colonial Secretary, be put in operation on the first day of September next.

The Council adjourned at 7.50 p.m.

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#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 18th July, 1871.*

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Educational Grant: Petitions—Exploration Eastward of Hampton Plains—Land Regulations: select committee—Thompson's Road Steamer—Licensing of Public Houses Bill: second reading—Distillation Bill: second reading—Elementary Education Bill: second reading: select committee.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.  
PRAYERS.

The Minutes were read and confirmed.

#### EDUCATIONAL GRANT: PETITIONS.

Mr. CARR presented a memorial, signed by 1,038 of the Roman Catholics of Perth, praying for a portion of the educational grant. Petitions to the same effect were presented by Mr. Steere, signed by 426 of the Roman Catholics of the Wellington district; by Mr. Monger from the York district, signed by 568