

and pass a private Bill relating to the temporal affairs of the Church of England; and also handed to the Clerk the certificate required by Standing Order 109, and copies of the *Government Gazette* containing the notice required by Standing Order 106.

The petition was received and read by the Clerk.

SEAMEN EMPLOYED IN COASTING VESSELS.

Mr. MARMION, in accordance with notice, asked the Attorney General under what Ordinance seamen employed in the coasting vessels of the colony should be dealt with in the courts of the colony.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) replied that in his opinion the Masters and Servants Act applied in all such cases relating to the enforcement of the rights of masters against seamen on the one hand, and of seamen against masters on the other, where the Merchant Shipping Act did not apply; and that the Merchant Shipping Act, so far as Western Australian coastal vessels were concerned, applied to Western Australian registered ships only when out of the jurisdiction of the Government of Western Australia.

The Council adjourned at 6.40 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 10th July, 1873.

Gold Prospecting: in committee—Contracts under Loan Act, 1872—Sericulture: in committee—Colonial Exhibition at South Kensington: in committee—Model Farm: in committee—Public Works Loan Bill: in committee—Third Readings.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.
PRAYERS.

GOLD PROSPECTING.

In Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee): The resolution I have now to ask the House to affirm is as follows:—That it is desirable to offer inducements for practical miners from the eastern colonies to prospect the colony for gold and other metals, and to import machinery by which the value of the numerous quartz reefs already known may be thoroughly tested. On more than one occasion

when I have brought this question before the House I have not been successful in carrying a vote of the House for the purpose; but I hope and believe that this session my efforts will be crowned with success. I think that, with the information before us, few hon. members can doubt that gold does exist, and probably in payable quantities, in many parts of this colony, and that various other metals abound in places of which we possess no knowledge at present. Nor are we ever likely to increase our knowledge unless we secure the services of competent persons to prosecute the search. But in regard of gold we are perfectly well aware that it has been found—I won't say in payable quantities—in various parts of the country; between here and Albany, in the north, at the Serpentine, and in other localities; and a very general opinion prevails not only here but in the other colonies, that we possess metals that would well pay the working of them, and that if proper means were taken to develop our mineral wealth, the result would produce a wonderful revolution in the colony. In addition to previous information we possessed on the subject we have had placed on the Table of this House within the last few days a very able report from Mr. Brown, who was lately employed here as Government Geologist, and who made a geological survey of the colony. In the report now before the House he gives a general resume of his proceedings during the two years he was employed here; and he speaks of many places in the colony where he believes it would be exceedingly desirable to prospect for gold. He is very cautious in all the observations he makes throughout his report, but he assigns as his principal reason for arriving at the conclusion that gold exists in the colony, the fact that the rocks and soil in the localities he speaks of are identical with the works and soil of those portions of Victoria which are auriferous. In his private letters, and in conversation with myself and others, when perhaps he has not been so cautious in his expressions as in a formal report, Mr. Brown has expressed a strong opinion that gold will be found in payable quantities in this country, and he thinks it would be a very good move on the part of the colony to cause the country to be prospected for that purpose. I have specially alluded to his opinion because in one instance that opinion has been backed out by the practical opinion of miners who have been for many years engaged in searching for gold in the Eastern Colonies. Only a few months ago a large number of people went away from Victoria and South Australia to prospect for gold at the northern territory of Port Darwin, where strong indications of the existence of gold and

other minerals were discovered. In consequence of various causes a large number returned to Victoria, and on their way thence, having passed King George's Sound, and running short of water, they put in at the mouth of the Phillips River, to obtain a supply. Now, in this very locality Mr. Brown, the geologist, had pointed out that the rocks were identical in geological formation with the gold-bearing rocks of Victoria. These men, some 50 or 60 in number, returning in the *Strathmore* from Port Darwin, put in here as I have already said for a supply of water, which, I believe, they did not succeed in obtaining. While searching for water they were struck with the resemblance of the soil and the rocks to those of the auriferous districts of Victoria, and exclaimed, "Why, here's a gold-field beyond a doubt! What are the people of this colony about that they take no steps in prospecting?" Failing in their efforts to obtain water, they returned to King George's Sound, and told the people of Albany what I have just said. Some of the residents at Albany, I believe, proposed that some of these men be engaged to proceed to the spot where the indications of gold existed, and a few of their number were prepared to accept the engagement. Nothing, however, being known of these men, and some people maintaining that their object was to obtain assistance to return overland to their own colony, the project was abandoned. At any rate, they spoke very strongly of the existence of gold at the very spot where the Government Geologist had expressed his belief it might be found. Two of those men were informed by people at Albany that, in the event of their desiring to make up a prospecting party on their return to Victoria, they would probably find me at Melbourne, and that they had better see me. Although I did not proceed to Melbourne for a month or two afterwards, those two men found me out immediately on my arrival, and they waited upon me. They were named Solomon and Steele, and they expressed an opinion exactly similar to that already stated, as to the probability of gold being discovered in the vicinity of the mouth of the Phillips River, and they were very anxious to form a party to prospect the district and other parts of the colony: but like most men of their class they had no money to carry out their wishes. They, however, had no doubt whatever that the project they had in view would be a payable speculation. I, of course, could only tell them that, without a vote of the Legislative Council, it was quite impossible for anything to be done in the way of subsidizing their efforts. In the meantime I put them in communication with people at Ballarat with

whom I had had some correspondence in regard of a formation of a prospecting party; and I think if this Council will grant a vote for the purpose, a party could be obtained to thoroughly and efficiently prospect this colony, at a very moderate expense, not only for gold but for other metals also. Since that time, further information has been received,—and I have no doubt that what I am going to say will be corroborated by the hon. member for Plantagenet. When Mr. Thomas Wanliss, the chairman of the Rockingham Bay Jarrah Timber Co., was on his way returning to Victoria after a visit to this colony, a short time since, he received from the hon. member for Plantagenet some quartz taken from a reef in the vicinity of the house where he resides. Mr. Wanliss was requested to have it assayed, and the result was forwarded to me the other day. In his letter Mr. Wanliss says:—

When I passed through the Sound I got some quartz from young Mr. Hassell. It was got I think from the station about 40 miles from the Sound, and was said not to have been picked. I have had it assayed, and the result will, no doubt, interest you. The memorandum given to me is as follows:—Silver 2 ozs. 14 dwts. to the ton; gold 14 dwts to the ton. We look upon this as a payable yield here.

Of course, if this is considered to be a profitable yield in Victoria, where laborers obtain 40s. or 50s. a week, it must be still more profitable here where labor is so much cheaper. "I think," continues Mr. Wanliss, "the mining prospects of Western Australia are really excellent, and I am sure if it was within a day or two's sail of Victoria there would soon be a big rush there." That comes from a gentleman who unless he thoroughly believed it to be true would never have written it. He has been connected with mining matters for a large number of years, and probably few persons' opinions on the subject would be more reliable. Moreover, he is a thoroughly disinterested person and cannot possibly have any object in exaggerating his opinions. His opinion and my own are in accord, and he thinks it would be an exceedingly wise step on the part of the colonists to have their country prospected. When in Ballarat, during my recent visit to the Eastern Colonies, I attended a meeting of mining captains, convened, I may say, so as to afford me an opportunity of telling those people what I knew of the mineral resources and mining prospects of this colony, and what chances there existed of any assistance being offered by the Government to a party of practical miners who might undertake to prospect the country. The terms upon which such a party would be prepared to come

here are something as follow. It will be borne in mind that the majority of this class of men live from hand to mouth, and would not be in a position to pay their passage from the other colonies here; and we would have to defray the cost of conveying them to the Sound. To show their earnestness in the matter, and their confidence in the result of their visit, they ask for no stipulation in regard of paying their passages back. In the event of their discovering an alluvial or quartz goldfield they ask that they be granted a lease of any portion of the land on such a field to the extent of three times the area of a prospector's claim in Victoria—some three or four acres—, in addition, of course, to the offered reward for the discovery of a payable, workable goldfield. In addition to this, all they will ask for during the period they are out prospecting will be such a sum as will provide them with the absolute necessities of life, which I don't think would exceed £1 to £1/5/0. a week per man. I state this on the authority of Mr. Wanlias, with whom I have been in communication on the subject, and he strongly recommends that such a party should be formed. Now, my idea, is, that with all this information before us, there is an exceedingly good prospect of a glorious future yet for this colony, and that we should make up our minds to get such a party to come here without delay. Perhaps the best mode of proceeding would be to appoint a board, consisting of gentlemen thoroughly conversant with mining matters, to select a party of useful, practical men, who would be prepared to visit our colony on these conditions. I think I could mention three gentlemen residing in the colony of Victoria, who are well acquainted with this class of people and who are connected with mining matters in that colony. They are Mr. Wanliss, already mentioned; Mr. Bland, who was formerly in the position I now occupy in this colony; and Mr. John Lewis, who is the manager of a large mining concern at Clunes. With regard to the expenditure which this plan would involve, I am under the impression that a party of from 18 to 20 men could be imported, and kept at work for a period of six months, for about £1,000. I would not have them all put down in one spot; I think it would be advisable to divide the party into three sections, each consisting of six men, including a foreman or superintendent; and it appears to me that it would be a good management to distribute the three parties as follows:—one might remain at the Sound on their arrival there, and prospect that district; another might proceed to Fremantle and prospect the middle part of the colony; and the third party could be forwarded to Champion Bay and

work in that vicinity. I am of opinion that if this plan be carried out, and these miners come amongst us, there are many settlers who will gladly assist them with rations and transport, and accompany the parties, if only for the sake of picking up such information on mining matters as they would be sure to be able to do from a number of practical miners. This would enable the men to make their £1 or 25s. a week go a little further than if they receive no assistance in the way of rations and transport. That, Sir, is the proposal in regard of prospecting the colony which I have sketched out for the consideration of hon. members, and I shall be exceedingly glad indeed if I have been successful in carrying a vote of the House for the purpose; the probability being that for a very small outlay a very large return may be confidently anticipated. If it should unfortunately happen that nothing would turn up, the question of gold or no gold would at all events be set at rest for a long time. I now come to the latter part of the resolution before the House,—the importation of machinery, by which the value of numerous quartz reefs already known may be thoroughly tested without having to send, as now, to the other colonies. A very small sum would be required for that purpose. In connection with this, I would also suggest the advisability of procuring boring apparatus with the view of boring for coal or other minerals which there is every reason to believe exists in the colony. For the sum of £400 or £500 all the machinery required for crushing could be obtained, and a boring machine, capable of sinking 600 feet, could be included in that sum. We have a 10-horse power engine in the colony that has never been used, and it might be used in connection with the crushing machine, which it is proposed should be erected and worked at Fremantle, where the steam power is, and where it could be worked by convict labor at little or no expense. It would then rest with the settlers in the various parts of the colony to send down quartz which they believed to be auriferous for crushing, and to ascertain whether or not it would be advisable to work the reefs from which the sample had been obtained. Having now, as briefly as possible, laid the matter before the House, I will leave it in the hands of hon. members, merely observing that in my opinion the sum necessary to be expended to carry out the project would be money exceedingly well spent.

An animated discussion ensued, the general tenor of the debate being in support of the resolution. The only difference of opinion manifested was in regard of the question whether or not the colony's finances would

admit of further expenditure in this or any other direction; but upon the Colonial Secretary informing the House that this proposition, as well as all others put forward by the Government, would be provided for out of the current revenue of the colony, and without necessitating increased taxation, the resolution was unanimously affirmed.

Question put and passed.

CONTRACTS UNDER LOAN ACT, 1872.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary for a return of the amounts remaining to be expended to complete the various contracts undertaken in connection with the Loan Act, 1872.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid the return on the table.

SERICULTURE.

In Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in moving that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, and affirm the following resolution—"That in the opinion of this House, the soil and climate of this colony are peculiarly qualified to promote the growth of the mulberry, and that it is therefore desirable to encourage the cultivation of this tree, with the view to establish silk-culture as an important industry; and further, that in order to place this industry on a firm and practicable footing, His Excellency the Governor be authorised to expend such sum as may be necessary to form one or more mulberry plantations on a small scale and temporarily to secure the services of a person thoroughly conversant with the science of sericulture, as an instructor to those who may desire to pursue the industry," said—Mr. Chairman, it must, I think, be apparent to every hon. member who has read the correspondence that has lately been published in one of our local newspapers, and which has been placed on the table of this House, with regard to sericulture; I say it must be apparent to every member that in a country the soil and climate of which are so wonderfully calculated for the growth and the cultivation of the mulberry, that an industry lies before us which can—if it be properly undertaken—give a very profitable return. That I lay down as an axiom which I do not think any hon. member will object to; and the next principle I wish to be affirmed is this—and it is one which I quite allow is entirely within the prerogative of this Council to affirm or reject,—whether, this country being shown to be peculiarly well adapted for the establishment and successful

prosecution of such an industry, that industry shall be undertaken and entirely prosecuted by private means, or be furthered and fostered by public assistance. The question of the growth of the mulberry and the whole process of sericulture has been brought prominently before the people of this colony by the public Press; and the Government, through the agency of my hon. friend the Surveyor General and others, have exerted their efforts in the same direction. I conceive the object of the resolution now before the House to be one of the most important subjects that can be brought under the consideration of the Legislature of this colony; second in no way to that already brought before it this evening. I did not intend originally, when I first placed this notice on the paper, that both should be considered at one sitting. It is sometimes not advisable to give people too great a surfeit of the good things of this life; and I should be sorry indeed that having had one of these resolutions affirmed by the House I should not also succeed on the present occasion. The subject, I repeat, is an important and a difficult one, and I feel how scanty my information is regarding it, how inadequately anything I can say will tend to place the matter in that light which I could wish; and I feel that I require the indulgence of the House. When the question of silk-culture was first introduced into this colony I confess that I thought it was a subject of little importance; I believed, in fact, it was simply an amusement or a pastime for women and children, and altogether beneath the dignity of the grown man. All that I knew of the subject was what I had seen as a child in England, and lately in this colony. I had not the slightest conception of the enormous importance of the industry itself, nor had I any idea of the number of people dependent upon it, and the immense amount of capital invested in it. Still less had I any idea of the peculiar adaptability of the soil and climate of this colony for the cultivation of the industry in all its branches. Day by day, as I have heard, read, and seen more of the subject, I have become more and more convinced how much can be done in this colony in connection with it; and I believe if a vigorous move is made in the right direction, that a new and remunerative industry lies before us, and which, if properly developed, will tend in a great degree to revolutionise the colony. The Government, it is probably known to the majority of hon. members, has for some time past, been prosecuting the industry on an experimental scale, and already nearly 10,000 mulberry trees have been distributed throughout the colony; but what I want to impress upon the minds of hon. members is,

that whatever is done in this direction should be done well and properly. If we are going to establish an industry, let us do so on some firm and practical basis. I apprehend there is not a man in this colony who understands the science of sericulture; like everything else of the kind it is not to be learnt in a day; and anybody who hopes to prosecute the industry with any prospect of success must acquire some knowledge of the subject. If the colony is peculiarly adapted for the prosecution of the industry—and beyond a doubt it is peculiarly well adapted—it is our duty to try to obtain some instruction in connection with it, and if we are to get instruction let it be first-rate instruction. Before proceeding any further it may be as well to give a few instances of the importance of the industry itself. Perhaps the two countries in Europe which have devoted most time and capital to the science of sericulture are France and Italy. Since the disease which occurred among the worms in 1870 and 1871 it has been found that in consequence of the peculiar and disturbed state of the former country, Italy shot ahead with the industry, secured higher prices for her silk, and proved the more successful of the two. For the present, however, I will confine my remarks to France alone, because in doing so I know I shall be rather within than beyond the mark in any statistics I have to place before the House. In that country, in 1871, upwards of one million of people were more or less dependent on this industry for their means of support. In that year, what had been threatened for some time past, came to a climax; nearly all the worms hatched, and upon which the industry so much depends, became diseased and perished so universally that it became necessary to import grain in order to save the season's crop from absolute and total failure. It was found the the best grain or silkworm seed was obtained from Japan; but the grain imported from thence to France was found to be altogether inferior to the indigenous European race which, in its turn, again was found to be altogether inferior to what was subsequently sent from this continent and acclimatised in Europe. In 1872, then, as I have already said, the seed imported from Japan during the previous season literally saved the entire silk crop of Europe from failure, whereby a million of people would have been deprived of their means of subsistence. In France, during the year 1871, there were hatched 550,000 ounces of silk grain, or eggs, which, calculated according to market value, together with the mulberry leaves and the labor employed during the process, were valued at £700,000. The return from the expenditure of that sum amounted to 22,500,000

pounds of cocoons, the value of which is estimated at £3,500,000 sterling. That, I think, will afford some idea of the value and importance of the silk industry in France. In this calculation the cocoons have been valued at the highest price ruling; I therefore propose we should reduce the amount to £3,000,000, so as to be altogether within the mark—and I think it is as well to be so in any statistics I place before the House. This, it will be admitted is a remarkable success, and unquestionably proves the value and importance of an industry in the probable prosecution of which I see no reason why this colony should not embark, and why, bit by bit, it may not assume an importance second to no other industry in the colony. What I have said, at any rate, shows that a very valuable trade may be done in the cultivation of silk, if that trade be properly conducted and the industry properly prosecuted. If we are not prepared to do this, we had better leave the matter alone; it is perfectly useless to attempt anything in a really successful way of business unless people go about it in a thoroughly practical manner. As yet, Sir, I have alluded simply to the value of the silk, and not to the value of the grain. One ounce of grain is supposed annually to produce 100 ounces: 100 ounces will in the same period increase to 10,000 ounces. One ounce of grain contains no less than 40,000 eggs—on the quality of these eggs, the mode in which they are acclimatised, and their general treatment, of course, depends the return from them; and it is calculated that, according to good or bad management 300 to 600 worms will produce one pound of cocoons, and 12 pounds of cocoons will yield one pound of raw silk. Thus, in an industry of this kind, it is a matter of great importance that those engaged in it should be able to secure good grain, and know the proper time and the proper mode to treat it; for on the good or bad management of the seed, and the good or bad instruction as to their treatment, depends whether or not the result will prove successful and profitable. It is exactly as in the case of a man working a farm; if he labors well, and is conversant with the science of agriculture, he may expect to profit by his farm; but if not, the chances are that at the end of the year he will find no return for his labor. So it is in regard to the industry of sericulture—and I believe in regard of all other industries;—if not properly conducted on the principle of common sense it is useless to prosecute them at all. The value of the silk seed, prior to the disease alluded to, never exceeded 5s. an ounce, and so great was the supply that, until the last two or three years, seed was almost at a discount. But, even at the rate of 5s. an ounce, and with

silk not exceeding 3s. a pound, the return per acre from mulberry plantations in France gave, according to good or bad management, from £70 to £140. These are statistics which have been vouched for by people in whom I have perfect confidence. But, Sir, it may be asked, How about the prices ruling now? Shortly after the importation to France of worms from Japan it was discovered they would not thrive in Europe. It was left to Mr Charles Brady, who possibly more than any other man in the world has studied the natural history of the silkworm, to bring grain to Australia, which after much trouble he succeeded in acclimatising. The grain which, under his management, is now produced in New South Wales, is sought for and purchased with avidity, and realises a high price. He would, probably, be one of the richest men in the world if he were in a position to supply the demand made for his grain. After some years of patient labor and study, the experiment being watched with much interest by connoisseurs, Mr. Brady succeeded in acclimatising the grain which he imported, and under his treatment the worm not only recovered its pristine nature, but it improved and became a far superior worm. He sent some grain Home, and the result is best described by its success. The first year after sending his grain Home, he received an immediate demand for 2,000 ounces, at a price which had never been heard of before—20s. an ounce. Unfortunately the supply he had on hand was utterly inadequate to meet the demand, but he did all he could, and sent Home 300 ounces. Every successive experiment has been attended with complete success; demands have been made upon him, first for one ton, then two, and then three, for which the price offered at first was 20s. per ounce, then 25s., gradually increasing to £2 for every ounce of grain. Not only from France, Italy, and other European countries, but from China and Japan he is besieged with orders. The cost of two tons of grain at 20s. an ounce amounts to £71,690, and now, with the price ruling as high as £2 an ounce, two tons would realise £143,380. Of course, these outside prices will not always rule, but I think I have shown enough to prove that, with silk and grain at an average reasonable price—although we have many industries in this colony which would prove remunerative, I know of none that would give a return like sericulture, if properly conducted. This is an industry, it must be remembered, which can be prosecuted on a limited or an extensive scale, and as an auxiliary to other industries. Land which is utterly unfit for the cultivation of cereals of any kind may be admirably adapted for the

growth of the mulberry. I have just this moment had handed to me by my hon. friend the Surveyor General a letter which he has received from Sergeant Dale, who superintends the mulberry plantation at Claisebrook. In his letter he says, "I beg to state that these mulberries won't grow on rich moist sand, but on the poorest sand they grow most luxuriantly." If this is true, and no doubt it is so, we have a large extent of acreage of land in this colony, unfit for the cultivation of cereals, but adapted in every way for the mulberry. A gentleman from Natal has, I understand, expressed his opinion that all the land between Perth and Fremantle could be utilised for sugar-growing. Such an opinion we all know—at any rate all who are conversant with the soil and climate in which sugar generally grows must know—is perfectly preposterous; not so, however, what I say in regard of the adaptability of an immense area of the land of this colony for the growth of the mulberry, and which if we give an impetus to this industry may be covered with plantations yielding a return undreamt of years ago. And now, Sir, I come back to where I started from; if we expect to succeed with the industry whose establishment on a permanent basis I am now advocating, we must go to work in a systematic and practical way; we must get scientific instruction. As a rule, I have great belief in practical experience; but in regard to new industries, it is a very slow process, and the chances are that a generation passes away before we should gain that experience which has been gained elsewhere. The cleverest men of the day are men who use the brains of others, and who take advantage of the information already attained; and my proposition in regard to this industry is that we should avail ourselves of the information already gained by others respecting it. I think that by utilising that information we could, in four or five years, accomplish more than we could in 40 or 50 without it. This experience has only to be gained by a long and arduous course of study; and those who obtained it had to overcome many impediments and difficulties, step by step, inch by inch, until at last their labors are rewarded;—and rewarded in a way which I think cannot fail to make them wealthy people, and also afford them the satisfaction of knowing that they have been the means of introducing a profitable industry to the colony in which they resided. I propose, Sir, that we should avoid all these obstacles and difficulties, all these arduous labors, and try to reap the benefit of the information gained by those who have travelled before us in the same paths. There are two

courses open to us in regard of obtaining the information we stand in need of: firstly, to get a person to come here to teach us, and, secondly, to send persons from hence to learn elsewhere. There can be no doubt, I think, in the mind of hon. members, that the first course is the better of the two, and many reasons will suggest themselves why it is so. I will confine myself to two; first, if we get a person here thoroughly conversant with the science there will be no limit to the number who may receive instruction at his hands; and any person who comes here amongst us will be able to attain such a knowledge of the peculiarities of our soil and climate as he would never be able to obtain from people sent from here to be taught. One system might be found to work satisfactorily in one colony, and might not answer in another. This brings me back to the name of a gentleman I have already mentioned in connection with this industry—Mr. Charles Brady. I am not going to make any definite suggestion in regard to him. During my recent visit to the Eastern colonies I had a good deal of personal communication with him, and I have corresponded with him to a considerable extent. I went to Sydney, as is well known to all hon. members, for a specific purpose, but my instructions were to make all possible inquiries into all matters that might tend to promote the welfare of this colony. I did so, and among other things I entered carefully into the matter now before the House. In the prosecution of my enquiries I came in contact with Mr. Brady, who, in addition to being an eminent sericulturist, is a highly-educated gentleman; but he is an enthusiast in regard of this industry, and like many more enthusiasts he has the idea that money is a secondary consideration as compared with the furtherance of the work he has devoted himself to. Bearing this in mind, in any proposal which I make with reference to him, I would not suggest that he should have anything to do with money arrangements, but merely perform the duties of an instructor. What I would propose in regard to the fostering and development of this industry is that small farms or plantations be established by the Government in various parts of the colony, subsidiary to other industries; that these plantations should co-exist with private farms and private establishments of the same nature; and that whoever came here as instructor should visit these farms to see that they were progressing favorably, and instruct classes at certain places in the details of the industry, which would occupy a considerable period of time, for these details are not to be learnt in a day. Now, Sir, in reference to Mr. Brady—who

probably knows more than any man in the world about this particular industry—I went to the trouble of ascertaining upon what terms he might be induced to visit this colony, and they are these: he proposes that he should be engaged for a period of seven years, that he would remain each year for such time as would embrace the whole process to be mastered from the laying of the egg to the packing of the cocoon. He asks, in consideration of his services, that he should be granted four square miles, or about 2,500 acres, of land suitable for the growth of the mulberry; that he should receive a salary of £360 a year; receive 20 per cent of the quantity of silk exported from the Government farm, and 50 per cent of the grain. A reference to the correspondence on the table will enable hon. members to understand why he would claim this large percentage of the grain. I am perfectly willing to allow that the remuneration he asks for is a heavy one, and one which I myself am not ready to recommend. Nevertheless, I am not at all sure that it would not be money well spent, for it would enable us to obtain the very best instruction available, and I am not at all certain that if we could secure the services of a man like Mr. Brady but that a number of other people, anxious to prosecute the industry, would come into the colony, where they would have an opportunity of profiting by his example and instruction. The salary which he asks, and which I do not even ask the Council now to accept, is perhaps a large one, for a few months in the year; and it must be understood that I make no definite proposition, but simply state what he himself asks. I have no wish that the House enter into any pledge in the matter; perhaps someone else might be found whose services might be secured permanently and on cheaper terms. Or it might be thought preferable to send one or two persons from this colony to obtain the necessary instruction, and then return to impart what they had learnt to others. I do not, I repeat, ask the House to come to any decision beyond affirming that it is desirable to encourage the establishment of the industry itself. The Government has only one thing in view in placing the matter before the Council—whether we are to proceed with the industry at all, and if so, to what extent? If we could but induce Mr. Brady to come here for one year, I don't think I need ask for a larger sum than £500 to be placed on the Estimates for 1874, for the purpose of defraying the expenses attendant upon his visit. The hon. member for the Swan in a motion which stands in his name alludes to pauper labor in connection with the establishment of a model

farm, and I may here state that, when the Estimates are brought forward a suggestion will be made with reference to the employment and distribution of pauper labor. It is proposed to put an end entirely to the present system, and to utilise the labor of our paupers in a very different manner. Much has already been done in this direction, as may be seen by a visit to the mulberry plantation at Claisebrook—the nucleus, I hope and trust, of an extensive and important industry. I will say no more, Sir, in the remarks which I have made I have simply endeavoured to prove by facts and figures that the industry of sericulture is an industry not to be despised, and one well worthy of the consideration of the representatives of the people of this colony, in Council assembled. It is an industry not to be set aside for the amusement of young ladies, or a pastime for women and children, but one in which the Lords of the creation, without any derogation to their dignity, may fairly and profitably be engaged in. No doubt, women and children will be most useful in the prosecution of an industry of this kind; but I can also see that it presents a fair field to the young men of this colony, either by going hence to the other colonies to learn the entire process, or by obtaining instruction here, and thereby enabling them to do what will not only be an advantage to themselves, but to the colony. I have not been able to work this subject up as I would have wished, but I have said all it is my intention to say, and I will now leave the matter in the hands of hon. members by simply moving the resolution, which, it will be observed, commits the House to the expenditure of no money, especially if I couple with it a suggestion that it be referred to the select committee on grants for new industries. The resolution, of course, if carried and put into effect, will necessarily involve some expenditure, and the utmost sum at present proposed to be placed on the Estimates for the purpose is that mentioned by the hon. member for Swan in connection with a model farm. All I ask the House to affirm is that, in its opinion, the soil and climate of this colony are peculiarly qualified to promote the growth of the mulberry, and that it is therefore desirable to encourage the cultivation of this tree, with a view to establish silk-culture as an important industry; and further, that in order to place this industry on a firm and practical footing. His Excellency the Governor be authorised to expend such sum as may be necessary to form one or more mulberry plantations on a small scale, and temporarily to secure the services of a person thoroughly conversant with the science of sericulture, as an instructor to those who may desire to pursue the industry.

The CHAIRMAN called the attention of members to Standing Order 47, and to the fact that two hours had elapsed since the Speaker took the chair.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the debate on the resolution be continued.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) seconded the motion.

Motion agreed to.

After some discussion, Mr. LOGUE moved as an amendment that the following words be omitted,—“and temporarily to secure the services of a person thoroughly conversant with the science of sericulture, as an instructor to those who may desire to pursue the industry.”

Amendment put, “That all words after the word ‘scale’, in the sixth line be struck out,” upon which a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes 10

Noes 5

Majority for 5

Ayes.

The Speaker
Mr. Steere
Mr. Marmion
Mr. Hassell
Mr. Monger
Mr. Dempster
Mr. Pearce
Mr. Bickley
Mr. Padbury
Mr. Logue (Teller.)

Noes.

The Hon. H. H. Hocking
The Hon. M. Fraser
Sir Thomas
Cockburn-Campbell
Mr. Russell
The Hon. F. P. Barlee
(Teller.)

Amendment thus passed.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

COLONIAL EXHIBITION AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

In Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the circular despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of maintaining a permanent colonial exhibition at South Kensington, be considered.

After some debate,

The SPEAKER moved that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, praying that the sum of £500 be placed on the Estimates for 1874 for the purpose of securing the representation of the colony at the exhibition.

Question put and passed.

MODEL FARM.

In Committee.

Mr. PADBURY, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble Address be presented to the Governor, praying him to place £500 on the Estimates towards the establishment of a model

farm, on which to employ our orphans and paupers.

An interesting conversational discussion ensued, the House affirming the principle involved in the motion, but hesitating to support it any further. Ultimately the resolution was withdrawn.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BILL.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) in moving the second reading of a Bill for raising the sum of £100,000 by loan for the construction of certain public works, said it was already understood by the House that the principal work—in fact, the only work to be sanctioned—was a railway, from Geraldton to Northampton, passing through the mineral portion of that district. He was quite willing to allow, as, he thought, he had already said, that perhaps no more serious question could ever come under the consideration of the Legislative Council than the Bill which he now moved should be read a second time; especially as its effect, if adopted, would be to launch the colony into a very heavy responsibility in the way of debt. At present the colony was only indebted to a very small extent, and it was now proposed to increase that indebtedness by a sum of not less than £100,000. He quite agreed that the question the House would have to consider in connection with this Bill was, whether or not we were justified in raising a loan of this amount, and in expending such a large sum of money in the construction of a railway, and, above all things, whether the work upon which it is proposed to expend it will be a reproductive work. He thought that when hon. members had read the various papers he had placed on the table in connection with the matter; the report of the Engineer, showing the mode in which he arrived at the amount of traffic, and of the expenditure to be incurred; he thought they would find that the colony would be justified in carrying out the project contemplated in the Bill. So far as it was possible to see, there was an immediate prospect, as soon as the railway opened, that not only would it pay the interest upon the money expended in its construction, but also the working expenses of the line, and leave a balance to the good. This calculation was based, too, upon the estimated traffic immediately available on the completion of the work. A railway running through one of the richest mineral districts in the world would certainly attract the attention of capitalists who were watching this colony very closely; for, once those capitalists observed that we were taking some steps

towards the development of our resources, and that we thereby demonstrated our belief and confidence in the wealth of those resources, it would naturally inspire a greater degree of confidence in their own minds as to the capabilities of the colony. Hon. members would have observed that the extent of railway proposed to be constructed was 34 miles, and that the estimated cost per mile was £2,600. The amount apportioned in the Bill for the work was £89,000—a trifle beyond what it is estimated the undertaking would cost, but the balance it was proposed to expend in the construction of a telegraph line along the line of railway from Geraldton to Northampton. In order that the railway be made as cheaply as possible a gauge of 3 ft. had been fixed upon; and that, he meant to say, was an exceedingly narrow gauge. In the neighbouring colonies the gauges varied from 4 ft. 8½ in. to 4 ft. 11½ in. The greatest incline on the whole line would be 1 in 40. No fencing had been provided for, nor crossings; nor payment for the fee simple of lands traversed by the line, inasmuch as it was thought possible that the possessors of the land would be willing to accept payment in other land. It was estimated that the rolling stock, two engines, railway sheds, turn tables, and 40 miners' waggons, could be obtained at the cost of £2,600 per mile. It had been stated in the House that railways could be constructed for £500 a mile; but he had never believed it possible, and had always expressed an opinion to that effect. Even with a gauge of 3 ft. he thought the proposed railway would be done cheaper than the same kind of work had been performed elsewhere. Only the other day, when in the House of Assembly in Sydney, he heard £2,150,000 voted in one lump sum for railways, which sum did not include rolling stock, but simply stations and the line itself. In the other colonies £6,000, and generally nearer £7,000, was the cost of railways per mile; and here we had rolling stock and everything else at a cost not exceeding £2,600 per mile,—about one-third of the cost of what is done elsewhere, where rolling stock, lines, and stations are provided. Having disposed of the question of cost, they would next have to inquire into the amount of estimated traffic. In dealing with that, he would not go beyond the Engineer's statement, because that would be mere surmise. He thought the Engineer's figures were exceedingly moderate and considerably within the mark. He calculates, from information which he has received and returns which had been furnished to him by the Government, that if the railway were ready at once there would be a thousand tons of ore per month for

transport by it. To this was to be added passenger traffic, wool, stores, animals, &c., backwards and forwards, all of which would, it was estimated, bring in £11,000. The Engineer calculated that the cost per ton would not exceed 10s., and he states in his report that the present carting price is about 30s. per ton. Taking the charge at 10s. per ton, the revenue from the estimated traffic would amount to £11,000 per annum. If from that sum they deducted 40 per cent. for working expenses—and certainly not more would be required—that would leave a balance of £6,600. Next, they would have to provide for the payment of interest and for a sinking fund, being 7 per cent. on the estimated cost of the work, £89,000,—5 per cent. interest and 2 per cent. towards a sinking fund. This per centage amounted to another £6,236 which would yet leave a clear balance of £370. His (the Colonial Secretary's) own opinion was that the traffic would considerably increase, and that the amounts named were much within the mark. He would go farther, and state that the proposed undertaking was an investment which in any other country would without hesitation be undertaken by private enterprise, and it was an investment that would pay. In addition to the £89,000 set down for the railway, it was proposed to raise an additional sum of £11,000 for the telegraph line now being constructed from Newcastle to Geraldton, and which had already received the sanction of the House, and been affirmed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It was not probable that the loan would be raised in this colony; it, therefore, became a matter for consideration whether we should adopt the Secretary of State's previous suggestions and endeavour to raise the money here and in England, or, in preference, go to the other colonies. He had no hesitation in stating that it would be far better for us to give people in the neighbouring colonies an interest in our own. As he had already said, we were closely watched by our neighbours, and, like himself, they had great faith in the future of this colony. When visiting Victoria, he took the trouble of ascertaining whether there would be any difficulty in obtaining the sum we required from capitalists there, and he was assured, on the highest and most reliable authority, that there would be no difficulty whatever in raising a loan, guaranteed by the Government, at a very moderate rate of interest; and the debentures would probably be taken at a premium, or certainly at par, and that the interest would not exceed 5 per cent, which was 1 per cent. lower than the rate of interest we were paying for the former loan. With these few observations he would merely move the second reading of the Bill.

After a short discussion the Bill was read a second time.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed, on motions by the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. P. Barlee): Importation of Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs Bill, Survey of Land for Railway Purposes Bill, and Abolition of Forfeitures for Treason and Felony Bill.

The Council adjourned at 5.20 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 11th July, 1873.

Addresses to His Excellency the Governor—Papers Tabled—Religious Bodies (Church of England) Bill: first reading; select committee—Increase of Members in Legislative Council Bill: motion for committee stage: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESSES TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) informed the House that the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech and the Address relating to the Colonial Exhibition at South Kensington, passed on the 1st and 10th July, had been presented to His Excellency in accordance with the resolutions of the House.

PAPERS TABLED.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid on the Table of the House the following papers:—

Two Plans of the Admiralty Surveyor's survey of the entrance to Cockburn Sound and Owen's Anchorage.

Certain correspondence from the Sussex and Nelson districts, relative to the roads boards in those districts.

Annual report of the Central Board of Education.

RELIGIOUS BODIES (CHURCH OF ENGLAND) BILL.

First Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking), in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the