

Legislative Council,
Wednesday, 18th February, 1891.

Joint Committees to report on public works: question—Census Bill: passed—Loan Bill: second reading; adjourned debate; Committee: suggestion to the Legislative Assembly—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill: second reading; committee—Audit Bill: second reading; committee; progress—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.) took the chair at 8 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

**JOINT COMMITTEES TO REPORT
UPON PUBLIC WORKS.**

THE HON. J. MORRISON: I have now, sir, to move the adoption of the following resolution, "That joint Committees of both Houses, to investigate and report upon public works of magnitude having apparently, in some of the Eastern Colonies, proved of much use and benefit, both to their Governments and to the general bodies of taxpayers, this House is of opinion that the working of such Committees, and their efficiency, should be inquired into, and trusts that the Ministers proceeding to the Federal Convention will inform themselves, as far as possible, upon the subject, with a view of determining the desirability, or otherwise, of introducing a similar system in Western Australia." This is the motion suggested by you, sir, yesterday, when I was speaking upon the subject of the Bill I had given notice of, and it is a matter, I think, that will commend itself to all. It is only asking Ministers who are likely to proceed to the other Colonies to make inquiries as to the working of these joint parliamentary committees there. In New South Wales such a committee was brought into existence to prevent the expenditure of public money on useless works; and in Victoria, on one occasion, the existence of such a control saved the Ministry from being compelled to expend £3,000,000 on what were, perhaps, not very desirable works. If such a committee has been found to be necessary in other Colonies, it would be of much help to the Ministry here, and prevent them from being forced to undertake works they may not be able themselves to countenance. It would also have the effect of saving friction between the two Houses.

THE HON. J. H. MONGER seconded.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I beg to move the adjournment of the debate until the next sitting of the House.

Question, That the debate be adjourned, put and passed.

CENSUS BILL.

This Bill was read a third time and passed, and ordered to be returned to the Legislative Assembly.

LOAN BILL: (£1,336,000).

SECOND READING: ADJOURNED DEBATE.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: In order to make the very shortest possible work of this Loan Bill, I now move, That it be made a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that each item of the schedule of this Bill be made the subject of a separate Loan Estimate, and the Council desires the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in its suggestion.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I second that.

THE PRESIDENT: The question now is that the Bill be read a second time, and I think such a resolution as that would come better in committee.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I think it would be better to deal with it now.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: If this suggestion be accepted, I think it will be the desire of the whole of the members of this House that the Bill should then pass in its entirety without question.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I should like to ask you, sir, what position we are now in?

THE PRESIDENT: What I would suggest is that the Bill be read a second time, and allow this suggestion to be considered when the Bill is in committee. Then, if the suggestion be agreed to, the Bill can be reported and returned to the Assembly. I expect that hon. members will confine themselves now to their second reading speeches.

THE HON. E. HAMERSLEY: I wish to say a few words on this Bill. I may say at once that I have the firmest faith in the colony and in its future, and I have every confidence in the Ministry and believe they are doing their best to carry out a policy, which we, in days gone by, have wished to see inaugurated. At the present time the combined import and

export traffic of the colony is about £1,500,000; we have 600 or 700 miles of railway, and our telegraph mileage can be counted by thousands. Under these circumstances, I think we are perfectly justified in going in for such a loan as this. Personally, had I the power, I might have modified it somewhat; but I am prepared to sink my own opinions when I see that the country is in favor of the Bill. I shall, therefore, vote for it in its entirety. I see that some hon. members wish to make some suggestion with regard to the Bill. This, I may point out, will only cause delay, and will be a most unwise step at the present juncture.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: It is very unfortunate that we are spending so much time over this Bill. I had hoped that we should have been able to pass the second reading when the House was in session yesterday. It is most desirable in the interests of the colony that certain works should be undertaken, and to enable them to be carried out we must have a loan. When I first saw the list of works proposed only two items seemed to me to be open to question, the extension of the Eastern Railway to Yilgarn and the Harbor Works at Fremantle. I then hazarded the opinion that before constructing these works out of loan money, we might ascertain if it were not possible to induce some syndicate to carry out both a transcontinental line to the South Australian border, and the Harbor Works at Fremantle on the land grant system. The existence of the Yilgarn Goldfields, through which the transcontinental line must pass, would be an immense inducement to any syndicate to take up the work. I still believe it possible that these works could have been carried out in this way; but as we now have the Bill before us, and cannot, as I understand, amend the schedule, I think the sooner we pass the second reading the better.

THE HON. W. D. MOORE: I am sorry to hear hon. members say that they are prepared to accept this Bill as it is, and I regret to hear it suggested that we have already wasted too much time over it. I think we should be greatly to blame if we hastened it in any way, or carried it through its stages precipitately. Surely the borrowing and expenditure of £1,336,000 is not a matter for haste.

The Bill passed through the Lower House in a few days, and it seems to be the wish of some hon. members that we should pass it here in as many hours. I shall be no party to such a course, and I must certainly express my dissent from such a method of legislation. To my mind the longer we discuss this Bill the better for the country. The question of Harbor Works at Fremantle has been specially referred to by some hon. members, and I must say that I am sorry to see any opponents of that work here; for it is well known that at the present time the commerce of the country is carried on with the utmost difficulty. Such a necessary work as this stands in a very different position to those other reckless proposals which are made in the shape of railways. These, however, I presume will come before us in due time on their own merits, and we shall then have an opportunity of voting for, or against them.

THE HON. E. R. BROCKMAN: I do not wish, sir, to give a silent vote on this Bill. It was generally regarded by the country that as a consequence of Responsible Government we should have a loan. The Premier and his colleagues have realised the position and have come forward with a very liberal policy indeed. I shall vote for the Bill, although I cannot say that I give it my unqualified support, for I look on some of the works in the schedule as rather too speculative. If the bright hopes of Ministers are realised, we shall have reason to congratulate ourselves on passing the Bill, but if, on the other hand, the influx of money and population to the colony is not so rapid as is expected, we shall have burdened ourselves with a heavy responsibility. I do not think we have any right to take it for granted that these bright prospects will be realised, if we are to judge the future in the light of the past. People did not come here so fast as was anticipated when the other railways were built. It may be the same in the future. I hope it will not. I shall vote for the Bill, and shall endeavor to make myself as sanguine as to our future prospects as the members of the Ministry.

THE HON. M. GRANT: We may look, sir, at the items in this Schedule from different points of view. To some it may appear that the Northern Districts have

been ill provided for, as compared with the Southern, but generally, I believe there is no jealousy existing between these two parts, and that we are only working for one end—the prosperity of the colony as a whole. I must say that I cannot see myself that the railways already constructed have conduced to much prosperity. I do not see, as the result, any very great amount of settlement or production, but I am glad to hear that this is looming in the distance. A great deal has been said about the productive character of the soil in the Southern Districts, but I may tell hon. members that although there may be good land in the South for the growing of wheat and other cereals, there is far better in the North. This railway to the South-West may possibly do something for us, but I doubt it for the reason that similar anticipations were expressed when the other railways were built, and which have not been realised. Even with these railways we are yet unable to get our potatoes, or our flour cheaper, and in fact we are still doing what these railways were said would prevent—obtaining our flour from South Australia, both cheaper and of better quality than we can get it in this colony. In Victoria there is a quantity of mallee scrub land which has been considered useless. Some of it has been cleared, and has been found to be some of the most productive land in the colony. We have a similar class of land in the North, which, I feel certain, only needs clearing to become a source of profit to the colony, instead of returning nothing as it now does. I am, therefore, glad to see the construction of the line to Mullewa on this Schedule. As regards the Busselton Railway, I have been over the country. It is very expensive land indeed to deal with, but of its fertility I will say nothing. We have the assurance of the Premier that there are a number of farms there, but I did not see them when I went down the road. If I had the greater portion of the land I saw given to me for nothing, on condition that I would live upon it, I would not take it, and I feel satisfied that when this railway is constructed there will not be enough produce carried to pay for the grease on the engine wheels. With regard to the Yilgarn Railway, unless we take it further to the East, where there might be some hopes

of a good result, I am afraid the country will be taxed to keep it running. We must remember that we have but one industry in the colony to depend on—that of raising wool, and unless we carry this railway into a sheep farming country, it will return very little. With regard to the Fremantle Harbor Works, I may point out that the imports and exports of the country have been well met by the accommodation we already have, and which has cost us thousands of pounds. The rates for freight are about the same here as prevail elsewhere, and, therefore, I cannot see what advantage is to be gained by a further large expenditure. The accommodation at Fremantle is quite equal to what we have to send away, or bring here. I might also remind hon. members that there have been such great events happen, as the capital being moved from one place to another. In this colony there are far more suitable places for the capital than Perth.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Where?

THE HON. M. GRANT: Geraldton. The capital should be in the centre of one of the great producing districts. You may cultivate Perth, but you will never produce anything from it. As regards the loan itself, I think the colony can well afford it at the present time, but it is the mode of its expenditure that we have to be very careful of.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: This Bill is the most important that has come before us. My own opinion of it is that it either goes too far or stops too short. I do not think that there is any doubt in the minds of hon. members that it is perfectly safe for this colony to borrow £1,336,000, and I should have been fully prepared to have supported a Loan Bill for that amount, leaving the way it was to be expended to the subsequent votes of Parliament, after proper inquiry had been made, and statistics of the works proposed had been obtained. No five members of the present Parliament could have been more surprised than the five gentlemen who comprise the Ministry at the easy way their Bill has arrived at its present stage. It may not be right to call it hasty legislation, but certainly there has been very little debate. The hon. members who sit in another place seemed to be satisfied with very little

information, and I think it would have been better had they simply passed the amount asked for and left the items in the Schedule for future consideration. Looking at the Schedule I am sorry to see so speculative a transaction as the railway to the Eastern Districts included, especially if there is the least chance of a Transcontinental line being constructed on the land grant system. By undertaking this work ourselves we are not only involving the country in an expenditure of £300,000, but we are also taking away the plum which might have been the inducement to capitalists to carry out the larger scheme. Again, this line will be on the narrow gauge, and therefore will be useless to form part of the Transcontinental line hereafter, which must necessarily be of the broad gauge type. Without going into the other items, I think it is rather a pity the Government did not make the item for Harbor Works at Fremantle clearer. No one reading that item would think that £20,000 of it was to be spent in deepening the river; £30,000 on the jetty, and £100,000 on commencing Sir John Coode's minor scheme. I question if this has been put before the hon. members of another place as clear as it should have been; for what it really means is this: The colony is going to spend £100,000 out of a loan of £1,336,000 on a work which will cost £500,000, and this is only another way of making the Loan Bill £1,800,000, for the balance will afterwards have to be borrowed. I have no objection to the sum put down being spent on Harbor Works at Fremantle, but I do object in commencing, in this way, a work which commits us to a further loan.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 6 agreed to.

Schedule:

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I now move, That it be made a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that each item of the Schedule of this Bill be made the subject of a separate Loan Estimate, and the Council desires the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in its suggestion.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: Hitherto the two Houses of this Parliament have worked together with the most perfect

unanimity, and in seconding this motion I do not think I shall be doing anything to disturb that harmony which has existed in the past. Seeing that we must either accept or reject this Bill as it stands, I think we are perfectly justified in taking the course which is suggested to us in the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I think the better course to pursue would be for hon. members to pass the Bill, and, in returning it to the Legislative Assembly, tack this resolution on to it. On behalf of the Government, I should be prepared to accept that proposition.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.): If that course were followed, this resolution will become simply waste paper. I may say that the course suggested by the Hon. Mr. Wright is in accordance with the established practice.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: If we pass the third reading, and the other House objects to agree to this suggestion, we shall be left in the cold.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Perhaps it would be better to take the Schedule item by item.

THE PRESIDENT: Hon. members cannot amend it, and, therefore, the proper course is to take the Schedule as a whole, and then move the suggestion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I may say that the Government have no objection to furnish estimates for each work. The Governor's Speech distinctly says that these will be supplied, and, therefore, I cannot see what good can be done by passing this suggestion. To-night again I pledge the Government to do so. We have no intention whatever of going back on our promises.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: I think the course we propose to adopt is the proper one. We have no desire to mistrust the Government; we merely wish that these matters shall be carried out in the usual form. The President states that we are in order as regards the suggestion, and in my opinion we should wait for a reply to it before we go any further. As I have said, we have no desire to mistrust the Government; we merely wish to assert our rights. These rights have been pointed out to us by the President, and it is our duty to uphold them.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: We must bear in mind that the Governor's Speech is not an enactment, and although it may bind the present Government they may not always be in office, and a passage in the Governor's Speech would not bind their successors. By adopting this course we are only standing upon our rights, which are quite slender enough. All we ask the Government to do is to embody in a Bill what they have promised in the Governor's Speech, and what the Colonial Secretary has to-night promised shall be done.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: With reference to the statement that if we pass this Schedule we shall be in a powerless position, I would point out that we shall have the third reading to protect us as a rod over the Assembly, and, therefore, I trust for the mere sake of expediting public business this Bill will be gone through at once, and the suggestion sent down in the form of a message to the other House. I was sorry, when I came to this House to-night, to find that we were, at this early stage of our existence, going to have a fight. I am sorry to have to use the expression "fight" in the first session of this Parliament, for I had hoped that we should have profited by the long history of the other Colonies in which these questions between the two Houses of the Legislature have been frequently fought out. I am afraid, however, that unless better counsels prevail, we shall find ourselves launched on a constitutional struggle, which I intreat hon. members of this House to believe (and I speak in no spirit of derogation to their rights) will leave the Legislative Council of Western Australia in a considerably worse position than it holds at present. As this motion has been sprung upon me, it may be admissible for me to refer to something that took place earlier in the day. I draw attention to the fact that a resolution, which according to the rules of political courtesy was communicated to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, was passed at a private meeting of members, that a suggestion should be sent down by this Council setting forth that a certain policy—

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I rise to order. The hon. member is not in order in alluding to what has taken place at a private and informal meeting of members

of this House. He has no more right to refer to such a thing than he has to a private conversation between two respectable gentlemen which he hears in the street. The discussion must be confined to what takes place in this Chamber alone.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.): There is no special rule on the subject; but it is very inadvisable that what takes place at private meetings should be divulged.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I have no wish to infringe that most salutary rule. My excuse is that a certain resolution having been agreed to—

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I again rise to order.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I am not going to refer to the resolution.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I say the hon. member has no right to allude to the discussion of anything, except that which took place in this Chamber in formal debate.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: A certain resolution having been agreed to, I say I am astonished to find another of a totally different character now moved by the Hon. Mr. Wright. That statement I intend to make for the—

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: And I intend to rise to order—

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I must protest, sir, against the conduct of the hon. member.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I say we have no right whatever to introduce into this House informal discussions which have taken place amongst ourselves, any more than we have to repeat private conversations we have heard in the street. We must confine ourselves entirely to the matter before us, otherwise we may lead ourselves into a flood of accusation, any attempt to prove which we may find to be utterly futile.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: In other words it is not evidence.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: It is certainly not relevant.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.): I think the Hon. Mr. Hackett will be able to say what he requires without reference to the matter the hon. member objects to.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: My hon. friend, Mr. Leake, with that rash

impetuosity of youth which he possesses, has endeavored to interrupt me. If he could overcome that rapidity of movement, not only of idea, but of action which accompanies him on all occasions, he would hear me read *verbatim* the resolution moved by the Hon. Mr. Wright. The resolution is as follows: "That it be made a suggestion to the Legislative Assembly that each item in the Schedule of this Bill be made the subject of a separate Loan Estimate, and the Council desires the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in its suggestion." I draw attention to the wording of this extraordinary recommendation. The object of it is transparent. There is no principle better laid down with regard to nominated Upper Houses dealing with Money Bills than that they must accept or reject them as a whole. They cannot amend. This principle is clearly laid down in a book which is no doubt familiar to most hon. members—Todd, on Parliamentary Government. He says: "All aids and supplies, and aids to His Majesty in Parliament, are the sole gift of the Commons, and it is the undoubted and sole right of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint in such Bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations, and qualifications of such grants, which ought not to be changed or altered by the House of Lords." This Parliamentary principle, moreover, has been generally, if not universally, admitted in all self-governing British Colonies by the adoption in both Legislative Chambers of Standing Orders which refer to the rules, forms, usages, and practices of the Imperial Parliament as the guide to each House in cases unprovided for by local regulations." Later on he lays it down in still stronger language. He says: "The relative rights of both Houses in matters of aid and supply must be determined, in every British Colony, by the ascertained rules of British constitutional practice. The local acts upon the subject must be construed in conformity with that practice wherever the Imperial polity is the accepted guide. A claim on the part of a colonial Upper Chamber to the possession of equal rights with the Assembly to amend a Money Bill would be inconsistent with the ancient and

"undeniable control which is exercised by the Imperial House of Commons over all financial measures. It is, therefore, impossible to concede to an Upper Chamber the right of amending a Money Bill upon the mere authority of a local statute, when such Act admits of being construed in accordance with the well-understood laws and usages of the Imperial Parliament." It appears, therefore, sir, that the right of this House in regard to Money Bills is that it can accept or reject, but cannot amend. It will be observed from the wording, this resolution provides that instead of the Loan Bill, or Estimates, being sent up as a whole, they shall be sent up as separate items; in other words to give us an absolute control over Money Bills and Estimates, and enable us to throw out one or more of the items without interfering with the general scheme of finance. In asking us to accept this resolution, or suggestion, as it is called, the Hon. Mr. Wright is asking us to take a step for which there is no precedent in any nominated Upper Chamber in the British Empire. He claims for this House, what is, however desirable it may be, an unconstitutional practice—a practice which we need never dream will be conceded to us by another place. It is claiming equal authority with the other House which consists of the representatives of the people. If pressed, what will be the consequence? We must know what stares us in the face. It is defeat—defeat pure and simple. Anyone who has read the history of the other Colonies, or who is familiar with the history of the Mother Country, or who has given the most cursory attention to the text books on the subject, will know that such a claim is not only extraordinary, but one of an unprecedented character. I do not blame my hon. friend if he thinks he can create a second Assembly; but if the attempt fails, what will be the result? I say if this be carried, our position in making a fight, and to that it may come, will be inexpressibly weakened at the present time. If we are defeated (and does any hon. member as a reasonable man suppose that we shall not be) I say that the worst enemies to the privileges of this House, and to the due and cautious control we should exercise over the legisla-

tion and finances of this country, will be the hon. gentleman who has moved this resolution in a primary degree, and in a secondary degree those members who vote for it.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: After the speech we have just heard I should like to make a few remarks. If anything were wanting to prove our case, it is the speech of the hon. member who has resumed his seat. That hon. gentleman has threatened the House in every way, and has spoken much more as a member of a defeated Legislative Assembly, than as a member of this House. He commenced by stating that which no one had any idea of, when he said that he came here and found that we were going to have a fight. Nothing of the sort exists. We came here with the idea of arranging matters in such a manner as to avoid friction between the two Houses. The hon. member says he was not consulted, and that the resolution was sprung upon him. It was not sprung upon him, or upon any other hon. member of this House. If he had been present, he would have known the exact terms of the resolution as it is proposed to-night. It was brought forward, not with any idea of a fight, but with the idea of allowing the Bill to be passed in its entirety, and that details of certain works, of which we have no evidence or knowledge of, should be brought before us before we are called upon to sanction them. What the hon. member asks is, that all questions on these money matters shall be burked as far as this House is concerned. He brings forward a book which says something about what His Majesty's Commons can do, but Western Australia has only just started with a constitution of its own, and we wish to work it in the best manner possible for the benefit of the inhabitants of the colony. The intention of this resolution is to aid the Ministry, and has in view the very object of preventing friction between the two Houses. I am told that if there is friction, I am to blame. I return the insinuation, and say if there is, it is the hon. member alone who is to blame.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: The hon. member who has just sat down has to a great extent anticipated what I was about to say; but I may repeat that as far as I know this House has no inten-

tion, or desire, to fight, and I regret very much that the Hon. Mr. Hackett should have used the expression. It was an unfortunate one, and I take exception to it in the strongest manner possible. From that hon. gentleman's remarks, he evidently wishes to make out that this House is a mere shadow, but I would remind him that we are here under the present Constitution Act. The Legislative Assembly was formed under it and we in this House are nominated under it. We are, as are the members of the other House, a portion of the governing body of the colony, and surely we are not without some power. I maintain that we represent the people, and surely we have some power. If we have none, this House should not exist; but should be swept away. I have heard it said outside by members of the Assembly, that we in this House only represent ourselves. What absurdity! Are we nominated under the Constitution Act to represent ourselves? I say if we only represent ourselves we have no business here; but we are here to assist and help the Assembly in carrying out such measures as may be for the general good of the country. The resolution before the House is a reasonable and fair one. The Hon. Mr. Hackett has endeavored to alarm the House by saying that if we pass it we shall bring about friction. We do not desire it. We want to do things in a constitutional manner. We are here to guard against hasty legislation, and to see that measures are not passed without due and proper consideration, and surely if we have any power at all there is nothing unreasonable in asking for information. We do not want to block Bills, or to take up an antagonistic position towards the other House. The hon. member says that we can only accept or reject the Bill, but our President has pointed out what other courses we can take, and we are only now following somewhat in one of the courses he has indicated. There is no idea of a fight. We simply desire that the items involving a heavy expenditure of money shall be submitted to us, so that we may have some idea of them and their cost. With regard to the Fremantle Harbor Works we do not object to improvements being made, but £150,000 is put down for them, and we do not know whether that will be the end of the expenditure,

or whether in passing that, we are committing ourselves to a further large expenditure. If this House is not entitled to any information with regard to a Money Bill, and we are bound to either accept it or reject it, it is a very unfortunate position for us to be in, and one I shall not like to see forced upon us.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): The hon. member has said a great deal about this House being nominated under the Constitution Act, but I may remind him that although it is so nominated, it exists to work upon constitutional rules. If the hon. member will take the trouble to read what are the constitutional powers of an Upper House with reference to Money Bills, he will see that such a body cannot amend. Now before the Government has had an opportunity of explaining any one item in the Schedule, this resolution is tabled. The Fremantle Harbor Works have been referred to, and if any hon. member wishes any information on the subject, I shall only be too happy to afford it. I have had no opportunity of doing so hitherto, and I am now met with this resolution. I have given the House my assurance that the Government will bring in loan estimates; the Government have said so distinctly in the Governor's Speech, and I say again that we have not the slightest intention of withdrawing from our promise.

THE HON. E. R. BROCKMAN: I rise to oppose the "suggestion" because it is different to that which we agreed to earlier in the day. I agreed to the other, but this is so different I cannot agree to it.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: I am sorry to find the Hon. Mr. Hackett making use of such strong language, for I am sure the object of this resolution is to prevent anything in the shape of friction between the two Houses. A certain pledge has been given in the Governor's Speech which has been repeated by the representative of the Ministry here, but I may point out that that will not bind a future Ministry, and we only ask the matter to be put in a definite form. We have no desire to raise a fight, and I am sure hon. members have no other wish than to promote the utmost good feeling between the two Houses. The resolution is fair and equitable, and simply asks that esti-

mates of these works shall be laid before us.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Hon. members have stated that they do not wish to come into conflict with the other House, and at the same time an insinuation is thrown out that that body has passed this Bill recklessly and without a proper consideration of the items in the Schedule. Such is a very strong accusation to make, and is one likely to lead to resentment on the part of the Assembly. Those who were present during the passage of this Bill through the other House, must know that each item was particularly well discussed, and that the Government were able to give satisfactory explanations as to all the items; otherwise the Schedule would not have been carried through without a division.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I perfectly agree with everything the Hon. Mr. Hackett has read on the constitutional aspect of this question; but we are not seeking to alter the constitution—we are only asking the Government to insert a clause in this Bill which we cannot do. We do not insist on our right to anything, for we are powerless.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Then why not accept the suggestion I made—pass the Bill, and send it to the Assembly with this resolution. I again assure the House that as soon as these estimates are ready, they will be brought before hon. members.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: If the Ministry is actuated by such desires, there will be no difficulty in getting the Assembly to insert the clause we ask. I look upon the Ministry with perfect confidence, for their work is for the advantage of the colony; but we do not believe in the next Ministry.

THE HON. E. R. BROCKMAN: I do not want this resolution. I want our Caucus resolution of this morning.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I would point out that hon. members are entirely forgetting the wording of the resolution, which is that each loan item shall be submitted so as to leave it in our absolute power to deal with it in any way we please. This would require 40 distinct estimates.

Question, That the Suggestion be agreed to, put and declared carried.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT called for a division, with the following result:

Ayes	...	10
Noes	...	4

AYES.
The Hon. J. G. H. Amherst
The Hon. T. Burges
The Hon. R. E. Bush
The Hon. M. Grant
The Hon. R. W. Hardy
The Hon. G. W. Leake
The Hon. J. H. Monger
The Hon. W. D. Moore
The Hon. J. Morrison
The Hon. J. A. Wright
(Teller).

NOES.
The Hon. E. R. Brockman
The Hon. E. Hamersley
The Hon. G. Shenton
The Hon. J. W. Hackett
(Teller).

Majority of 6 for the Ayes.

THE PRESIDENT resumed the Chair, and reported that the Committee had made progress with the Bill, and recommended that it be returned to the Legislative Assembly with a Message conveying the Suggestion agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) moved that the report be adopted, and that the Committee have leave to sit again on receipt of a Message from the Legislative Assembly.

Question—put and passed.

GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I beg now to move the second reading of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill.

Question—put and passed.

The Bill was then considered in Committee and agreed to without amendment, and reported, the third reading being made an Order of the Day for the following day.

AUDIT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I have to move the second reading of this Bill.

Question—put and passed.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1.—Short title:

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT moved that progress be reported.

Question—put and passed.

Progress was reported, and leave given to sit again at the next sitting of the House.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at ten minutes to 10 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 19th February, at 8 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 18th February, 1891.

Bonuses for Production of Vegetable and Dairy Products—Public Health Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Apportionment Bill: third reading—Scab Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Excess Bill, 1890: second reading; in committee—Excess Bill, 1889: second reading; in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

BONUSES FOR PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLE AND DAIRY PRODUCE.

MR. RICHARDSON: I wish to ask the Premier the question standing in my name, Whether the Government has any intention of putting forth a comprehensive scheme of bonuses to encourage the production of all kinds of vegetable products; also for the manufacture of all kinds of dried and canned fruits; also the establishment of butter, cheese, and bacon factories on similar lines to that projected by Victoria?

THE PREMIER (Hon. J. Forrest): In reply to the hon. member, I can only say that the present Government has not yet considered the matter.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. DE HAMEL obtained leave to introduce a bill to amend the Public Health Act, 1886 (50 Vic., No. 19), and moved its first reading.

Agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

APPORTIONMENT BILL.

Read a third time.

SCAB ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): As wool is an article very much produced in this country, and as a very large amount of capital indeed is invested in Western Australia in the growth and production of wool, I am sure that the subject of scab in sheep is one that must interest, I may say, almost every mem-