

## EXCESS BILL, 1881.

Read a third time and passed.

## COLONIAL PASSENGERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), in moving the second reading of a bill to amend the Colonial Passengers Ordinance and other Acts relating to the carrying of certificated mates in coasting vessels between certain ports within the colony, said that in 1861 an Act was passed regulating the navigation of coasting vessels, providing for the safety of persons who travelled by them, also for the survey of them before they left port, for their manning, and for other purposes. In 1868 this Act was amended, and it was then made the law that every coasting vessel should be commanded by a master holding a certificate either from the Board of Trade or from a local examining body which was appointed at the time; and various provisions were then made as to what should be done if these masters proved to be incompetent or misconducted themselves. In 1875 an Act was passed which provided that these coasting vessels, with certain exceptions, should not only carry a certificated master but also a certificated mate, and he thought the House would be of opinion that that was a very wise provision, for it might happen that illness or an accident might occur to the master, and, unless there was a proper person on board to navigate the vessel, the safety of the passengers might be endangered. But there was an exception made as regards vessels making voyages between certain parts of the coast, Cape Naturaliste on the south and the North-West Cape on the north. At that time almost all these coasting vessels started from Fremantle, but it had recently been brought to the notice of the Government that it was desirable to exempt other vessels from carrying certificated mates, vessels plying between Albany and Eucla, or between intermediate ports between those two places. It had been pointed out to the Government that the navigation of the coast between Albany and Eucla was not more dangerous than the navigation of the coast between Fremantle and Bunbury; and, that being so, it was found that the provisions of the Act requiring vessels going from Albany to Eucla to

carry a certificated mate were sometimes ignored, various stratagems being resorted to in order to evade the Act. It therefore appeared to the Government, looking at all the circumstances and with the information now in their possession, that there was some hardship in requiring a certificated mate to travel in vessels going from Albany to Eucla, which, as already said, was not a specially dangerous voyage; and the present bill provided that this exemption as to not carrying a certificated mate shall apply to all such vessels. He had no doubt the House would be of opinion that this was a very desirable provision to make.

The bill was then read a second time, without discussion.

## BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 4th August, 1885.*

Postal Communication between Roebourne and Telegraph line—Existence of Rabbits—Miss Barlee's proposal re Training Home for Girls (Message No. 5)—Establishment of Sugar Industry (Message No. 8): referred to select committee—Mr. Lempriere's proposal re Ostrich Farming (Message No. 6): referred to select committee—Bush Fires Bill: further considered in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

## POSTAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ROEOURNE AND TELEGRAPH LINE.

MR. GRANT asked the Colonial Secretary what steps the Government proposed taking to establish weekly postal communication between Roebourne and the end of the telegraph line near the Ashburton river.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser)—replying some days afterwards—said that arrangements were being made to provide a monthly service between Roebourne and the end of the telegraph line, and *vice versa*, in addition to the monthly mail service between Roebourne and the Ashburton.

#### RABBITS AND THE RABBIT ACT.

**MR. GRANT** asked the Colonial Secretary whether any reports or information had been received by the Government from the inspectors gazetted under the Rabbit Act, or from other persons, as to the existence of rabbits on the mainland or in any part of the colony.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser): None.

#### TRAINING HOME FOR GIRLS (MESSAGE No. 5.)

On the order of the day for the consideration of His Excellency's message relating to Miss Barlee's proposal for the establishment in this colony of a training home for girls, to be introduced from England with the object of supplying the demand for respectable female servants,

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser) said the proposal had in the first place been referred to the Board of Immigration, but as the Board did not think it was one coming within the scope of their operations the matter was referred back to the Government, and His Excellency had sent it down to the House with the view of eliciting an opinion as to whether the scheme was one within the means of the colony to enter upon at the present time. He understood the hon. member for the Gascoyne was prepared with a resolution on the subject.

**MR. BROWN** said he thought all hon. members would agree that the proposal made by Miss Barlee was a most philanthropic one, and that such an institution properly established and properly conducted would be of very great service to the colony. The gist of the scheme, as hon. members were aware from Miss Barlee's letter, was this: that a training home be established in the colony for children of tender age, picked up in the large towns of the mother country, who, while in this training home, were to be moulded to suit

the requirements of employers of female domestic labor in the colony; and that there should be a corresponding receiving home in England where the children selected could remain until shipped, periodically, to the colony. In this way, it was believed by those who put forward the scheme, many of the waifs and strays which swarmed the cities of the old country might be saved from ruin, and be converted into useful domestic servants, thereby supplying a much-felt want in the colony. As he had already said, no one could doubt the good intentions and the philanthropy which prompted the scheme, but it was doubtful whether this colony was in a position to assist the mother country to get rid of her waifs and strays, and he thought it would be seen that the cost would be something tremendous. These children were to be taken up at six years old, and kept in training until they were twelve or fourteen years of age, and fit for service. First of all there would be the cost of the children's passage out, and of the matron who would accompany them; then there would be the cost of maintaining them in the training home for seven or eight years, with the further expense of a receiving home in England for the reception of the children and their despatch to the colony. It would thus be seen at a glance that the cost of introducing and training these little ones would be much greater than the cost of importing female immigrants of a good class from England. The Board of Immigration had entered into a rough calculation as to what would be the probable cost of bringing out, and of training these children fit for service, and the Board found it would be something like £100 for each child. He doubted very much whether, on the small scale which we should be obliged to enter into the project, we could introduce and train up these girls at an average cost of less than £100 each, whereas now the cost of getting out female immigrants was only about £20 per head. Under these circumstances, he was satisfied that hon. members would agree with him that, however desirable the scheme might be from a philanthropic point of view, it was one which it was not within our means to enter upon at the present time. If we were in a position to entertain the proposal at all, he should imagine that it

would be far more desirable to have the training home in England than in Western Australia, and that the children should be sent out to the colony direct from the home, ready for service. The hon. member concluded by moving a resolution affirming that, while sympathising with the object in view, the House did not consider it was desirable at the present time to take measures to establish such a training home as that referred to.

MR. S. H. PARKER seconded the resolution without comment, and it was agreed to *sub silentio*.

#### SUGAR INDUSTRY: MR. SMITH'S PROPOSAL (MESSAGE No. 8).

On the order of the day for the consideration of His Excellency's message, forwarding a scheme proposed by Mr. George Smith, of Mackay, in the colony of Queensland, for the establishment of the sugar industry in the tropical northern territory of this colony,

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that the proposal be referred to a select committee, consisting of Mr. Brown, Mr. Harper, Mr. Grant, Mr. Venn, and the Mover.

This was agreed to.

#### OSTRICH FARMING: MR. LEMPRIERE'S PROPOSAL (MESSAGE No. 6).

On the order of the day for the consideration of the Governor's message, forwarding an application from Mr. Everard Lempriere, for encouragement (in the shape of a grant of land) towards establishing ostrich farming in this colony,

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that the question be referred to a select committee, consisting of Mr. Harper, Mr. Brockman, Mr. Randell, Mr. Loton, and the Mover.

This was agreed to.

#### BUSH FIRES BILL.

The House then went into committee for the further consideration of this bill.

Clause 8: "If any occupier of land shall wilfully set fire to the bush on the lands in his occupation during any prohibited times without giving seven days notice to all the owners or occupiers of

"adjacent land as aforesaid, he shall be liable, on conviction thereof before any two or more Justices of the Peace, to a penalty not exceeding £50, although such fire shall not have extended to any of the adjacent lands, and shall not have done any damage as aforesaid."

MR. STEERE pointed out that this clause was not in harmony with the new clause proposed to be introduced by the hon. member for Geraldton, in lieu of the 7th clause.

MR. BROWN moved that the words "seven days," in the fourth line, be struck out, which he said would meet the case.

This was agreed to, and the clause as amended put and passed.

Clause 9.—Saving of other remedies and proceedings:

Agreed to.

Clause 10.—Incorporation of certain sections of Shortening Ordinance:

Agreed to.

MR. WITTENOOM then moved the following new clause, to stand as clause 7: "Every person who shall wilfully or negligently set fire to the bush within any district or part of the colony, during the prohibited times for that district or part, shall be liable, on conviction thereof before any two or more Justices of the Peace, to a penalty not exceeding Fifty pounds. Provided that any lawful occupier of land South of the southern boundary of the Irwin District may set fire to the bush on the land in his occupation, during such prohibited times, if he shall have previously given seven days notice of the day he intends to burn, to all the owners or occupiers of lands next adjacent to his said land; and North of the said boundary, if he shall have given not less than seven nor more than 21 days notice as aforesaid; and if he shall also take all such precautions as shall prevent the said fire from extending to any of the lands adjacent, or from damaging the crops, grass, trees, houses or buildings on any of the lands adjacent."

MR. LOTON thought it would be much better to make the clause applicable to the whole colony. (MR. WITTENOOM: We cannot). From what fell from the hon. member the other day, he understood there would not be much difficulty in people arranging as to the time of burning; the difficulty was as to giving

the notice. This notice, if it be allowed to be given to owners or occupiers, as now proposed, would not give rise to much difficulty if it provided that a reasonable notice be given, stating that within some time afterwards the person giving it would proceed to burn, and that he be allowed to burn on any day he liked within the time specified.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he quite agreed with the last speaker. He thought what the Act was required for particularly was for the settled districts of the colony. In many places it would be very inconvenient and almost unnecessary to have to give notice at all, while in other parts the Act ought to be very stringent.

MR. BURGESS said that fires in the Champion Bay District were not as a rule as dangerous as fires in the Southern Districts, where there was a large amount of timber, which would cause a bush fire to spread, and for this reason he thought they ought to have a very different law applying to the North from what they had applying to the Southern Districts.

MR. BROCKMAN said he had had considerable experience in various parts of the colony South of the line which the hon. member proposed as his separation line, and there was a good deal of country South of that line that would only burn under the same conditions as the particular part of the country which the hon. member had in his mind when he framed his amendment. He thought the same amount of notice and the same latitude was quite as much required South as North of the boundary line.

MR. WITTENOOM said he had not the slightest objection to the clause being made to apply to the whole colony. It was at the suggestion of some of the Southern members, who considered their part of the country more dangerous, that he framed the clause as it now appeared.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said he did not propose to say anything as to the desirability or otherwise of having different laws for different parts of the colony, but he was anxious that whatever clause was passed should be clear, so that there could be no mistake about it. As the clause originally stood, there could have been no

mistake about it; but in its present form there was doubt about it. For instance: "nor more than 21 days"—was it intended that the notice should specify any particular day within these twenty-one days? He thought it was very necessary that neighbors should know exactly when these fires were going to be started. Again, was it desirable that the notice should be in writing or *viva voce*? In the latter case there was a danger of the message not being delivered as sent. He would suggest that the hon. member for Geraldton—and he should be happy to assist the hon. member—should draw up a fresh clause, and put it on the notice paper.

MR. WITTENOOM said the intention was that notice should be given on every day on which it was proposed to burn, though a man need not necessarily burn on that day in all cases. In the Champion Bay district the weather was so uncertain that the probability was that there would only be two or three days out of the twenty-one days when you could burn, and everybody would know what those days would be. He thought it was an extremely good suggestion that the notice should be in writing, and he should be happy to fall in with the views of the Attorney General as to framing a fresh clause.

MR. STEERE hoped the principle would be adhered to that some definite day should be fixed by the notice, so that people might know when the burning was going to take place. It appeared to him that they might as well have no notice at all, if it applied to any day out of twenty-one days.

MR. HARPER thought it very desirable, if possible, that the clause should be so framed as to meet the circumstances of the whole colony. There was a great deal to be said on both sides, and possibly they might succeed in steering a middle course. If the notice was to run for three weeks it would lead to a great deal of uncertainty, and neighbors might have to keep at home on the alert for all that time.

MR. BROWN considered it would be more desirable if they could make the clause apply to all parts of the colony, rather than have one law for the North and another law for the South. He thought the burning should be on any

day or days within the time specified in the notice.

MR. VENN said he was rather inclined to favor a boundary line, though he had no particularly strong wish in the matter. So far as the Southern districts were concerned, he thought it was very desirable that some fixed date be specified for burning. He also thought the notice should be in writing.

MR. BROCKMAN pointed out that in some cases there would be no occupier to whom to deliver the notice, and the owner of the land might be hundreds of miles away.

MR. BROWN moved that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 5th August, 1885.*

Fortification of King George's Sound: Federal action—Breaksea Cable and Eucla Telegraph line—Supplementary Estimates, 1885: in committee—Northern District Special Revenue Amendment Bill: first reading—Correspondence relative to Powers and Responsibilities of Harbor Master—Land Regulations (Message No. 3)—Transfer of Imperial Convict Establishment (Message No. 18)—Imported Stock Amendment Bill: second reading—Colonial Passengers Amendment Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### FORTIFICATION OF KING GEORGE'S SOUND: FEDERAL ACTION.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), replying to the hon. member for Plantagenet, said it would not be expedient to lay on the table of the House copies of the correspondence and telegrams which had passed between this

Government and those of the neighboring colonies, on the subject of fortifying King George's Sound, inasmuch as the correspondence was yet incomplete, and had been superseded, to a great extent, by the Secretary of State's despatch of the 12th June, now under the consideration of the various Governments concerned. Since the receipt of that despatch this Government had telegraphed to the Governments of the other colonies on the subject, and when their replies would be received a further communication would be made to the House.

### BREAKSEA CABLE AND THE EUCLA TELEGRAPH LINE.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL asked the Director of Public Works whether the Breaksea Cable had been connected with the Eucla Telegraph Line, and, if not, when the connection would be effected, and the reporting station at Breaksea placed in working order.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): The submarine cable for the Breaksea telegraph only arrived from England on board the s.s. *Parramatta* on Wednesday, the 16th July. Everything had, however, been prepared and was in readiness, so that on Saturday afternoon, or only three days after the arrival of the cable at the Sound, the laying was successfully finished. The Public Works Department was most materially assisted in this by Captain Brooke, Lieutenant Moore, and a party of seamen from H.M.S. *Opal*, and it is to this coöperation that the laying of the cable was so quickly and satisfactorily accomplished. Immediately after the cable was laid a start was made to connect the land lines and the cable across the mouth of Oyster Harbor, and the work is being pushed forward as quickly as possible. All the necessary materials have been sent off. We purpose trying the experiment of telephonic communication at this place, instead of telegraphic. If this answers, as I have every reason to believe it will, it will afford greater facilities in communicating, with less loss of time and the great expense of having to station a skilled operator at the lighthouse with nothing to do but report passing vessels.