

purchase of guns for the defence of Albany.

Item passed.

Item XXVIII.—“Works and Buildings, £2,433 0s. 8d.”:

MR. A. FORREST raised his voice against the expenditure of £1,163 in converting the old Post Office building into a Legislative Council Chamber, when the Government had a piece of land adjoining the present House of Assembly upon which they could have put up a room that would have answered for a Council Chamber for the present. Whether it was the present Government or the old Government that was to blame in the matter it was very much the same; it appeared to him an unnecessary piece of expenditure. No one would hardly believe it that £1,163 had been spent in renovating that old Post Office.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said, unfortunately, the late Government were not there to hear the hon. member's criticism, and certainly (in the absence of the Premier) he might say that the present Government did not feel it at all, as this expenditure had not been incurred by them.

MR. LOTON thought the money had been judiciously spent in converting the old Post Office into a temporary Council Chamber rather than erecting a new building. Such a sum as £1,163 would hardly have laid the foundation of a new building.

THE SPEAKER said he thought this amount included all the alterations made in the Assembly Chamber as well as the Council Chamber. He believed that a sum of £1,000 was voted for the two Houses, and that amount not having been found sufficient this additional sum was expended.

Item passed.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Title and preamble agreed to.

Bill reported.

EXCESS BILL, 1889.

This bill passed through committee, *sub silentio*, and was reported to the House.

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

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 19th February, 1891.

Joint Committee to report on public works: adjourned debate—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act, 1884, Amendment Bill: passed—Audit Bill: committee; progress—Loan Bill: message from the Legislative Assembly—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

JOINT COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS.

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Hon. J. MORRISON, “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 body 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.”

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Since the last sitting of the House I have been able to consider the reasons given by the hon. member for the motion, and I may now say that I have no objection to it.

Question—put and passed, and the resolution ordered to be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly by message.

GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK BILL.

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

AUDIT BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clauses 1 to 15 agreed to.

Clause 16—Annual estimates of revenue and expenditure:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) moved, That the word “Parliament,” in the first and fifth lines, be

struck out, and the words "the Legislative Assembly" inserted in lieu thereof.

Question—put and passed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) moved that the following words be added to the end of the clause: "Such Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure shall also be presented to the Legislative Council."

Question—put and passed.

The clause, as amended, was then put, and agreed to.

Clauses 17 and 18 agreed to.

Clause 19—Loan Estimates:

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT moved that the words "and approved by" be inserted between the words "to" and "Parliament," in the first line.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton) moved that progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again. He said that he considered such an important amendment should have been given notice of.

Question—put and passed.

The House resumed, and leave was given to sit again on Friday, 20th February.

LOAN BILL—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THE PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a Message from the Legislative Assembly on the subject of this Bill, stating their reasons for rejecting the amendments suggested in the Bill by the Council (*Vide p. 330 post*).

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I am not disposed on the whole to disagree with the reasons of the Legislative Assembly for the rejection of our suggestion. It seems to me we are at one all through the Bill, and I must assert that there never was any intention on the part of this House to express any dissatisfaction with the Bill itself. The Legislative Assembly has, I think, taken a view of our reasons which we did not intend they should take. If the Message had gone down in a different shape, I feel certain it would have ensured more favorable attention.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Hear, hear.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I think if we were to inform the Legislative Assembly not to consider that we propose to reject, or modify, the Bill, but to add

certain provisions we should be within our rights. If we had sent down our suggestion somewhat in this way: This House agrees to the Loan Bill, but suggests that the item of Harbor Works be authorised by special Act, there is no doubt it would have been accepted. There is no question of principle involved in this at all, for it has already been conceded in the case of railways, and I believe the suggestion I now make will receive the approbation of the members of the other House. The Legislative Assembly seem to think that we are urging them to send up a separate enactment for each item of expenditure. That, sir, is surely not the wish of any member of this House. All we do ask is that with regard to so large an expenditure as £150,000 on Harbor Works, they shall be placed in the same category as a railway, which can only be constructed after the passing of an enactment. If the suggestion I have now brought to the notice of the House be sent to the Legislative Assembly, I feel sure it will not be likely to be rejected. I do not consider that we are acting in any hostile manner towards the Assembly. We are not seeking to modify their Bill; on the contrary, our intention always has been that the Legislative Assembly should be left with a perfectly free hand, as is their right with reference to the expenditure of public money; but we merely ask them to recognise, with regard to the Harbor Works, the same principle as is in force in regard to railways. Rumours have got about, sir, and broad assertions have been made, that the two Houses are in conflict. There may be a misconception on the one side that we are asking too much, and, on the other, that what we asked has not been put forward in the precise manner which this House wished it to be. I now, sir, move that this modified suggestion, which I will read, be sent to the Legislative Assembly: "That this House agrees to the Loan Bill; but would suggest that if the Harbor Works contained in the Schedule cost over £20,000 they be authorised by special Act, as in the case of railways." That, sir, claims nothing for the Upper House, and asks for no concession of any new principle. We have Bills in the case of railways, and, therefore, no new principle can be involved.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no question before the House. Mr. Colonial Secretary: What date do you name for taking this Message into consideration? The rule is that when a Message comes from the other House disagreeing with a Message of ours, a day is named for it to be considered in Committee.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I move that the Message be considered now.

THE PRESIDENT: The rule is that a day is to be named—that is, a future day, I take it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): If it be the wish of the House, I am ready to go on at once.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: Then say now.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: It is hardly possible to take such an important reply into consideration this evening. We sent to the other House last night, and we have only just received a reply. It is due to the country at large that we should give this Message due consideration. It appears to me that we are being brought into a serious position with regard to the Assembly, and from what I have just seen of this Message, it is very necessary we should postpone its consideration until the next sitting of this House. We are certainly not in a position to speak on it to-night.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think we can go on with it to-night, except by the suspension of the Standing Orders.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: Then I move that the Message be considered to-morrow.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): We have had several Messages from the Assembly which we have dealt with at once.

THE PRESIDENT: I mentioned that it was Messages disagreeing with Messages of this House that must be taken into consideration at a future date, and not other Messages.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I beg to second the motion of the Hon. Mr. Leake, that the consideration of this Message be postponed until to-morrow.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: I know there is nothing in the shape of ill-feeling or friction, and it might save time if we go on with it to-night. The other House sits in the afternoon to-morrow; and if we do not get our reply before them,

then the matter will probably have to stand over until next week, and we all know time is important.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): We shall have to meet on Monday.

Question—that the Message be considered in Committee on Friday, 20th February—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House, at 10-15 p.m., adjourned until Friday, 20th February, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 19th February, 1891.

Official Certificates re Timber Exports—Loan Bill: £1,346,000; Message from the Legislative Council—Reply to Message—Alleged Intemperance, Locomotive Department, Fremantle—Sale of Liquors in Unlicensed Houses under the guise of Clubs—Excess Bill, 1889: third reading—Excess Bill, 1890: third reading—Lunatic Asylum, Fremantle; Report of Select Committee; consideration of—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7-30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

OFFICIAL CERTIFICATES RE TIMBER EXPORTS.

MR. PATERSON, in accordance with notice, moved, "That in the opinion of this House it is desirable, in the interest of the timber trade of this colony—more especially with regard to the export thereof—that some means should be devised by which all timber (the growth of this colony and exported therefrom) should be accompanied by an official statement made by some duly constituted authority, certifying to the proper name and character of such timber." The hon. member said it would be necessary for his purpose to refer to a question he