

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 27th August, 1880.

Inspectors of Sheep: Disposal of Penalties—Contract with Owners of the s.s. "Rob Roy" and "Otway"—North District Special Revenue—Estimates: Further consideration of—Messages (Nos. 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

## INSPECTORS OF SHEEP: DISPOSAL OF PENALTIES.

Replying to the question asked by Mr. Burt, on 26th August,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said "there were no documents in the Government Offices that would warrant the payment of fines to Inspectors of Sheep, but that it had been customary to pay informers a moiety of the fines inflicted in cases of conviction for breaches of the Scab-in-Sheep Act. No alterations were contemplated by the Government in the existing regulations, under which His Excellency the Governor had discretionary power in disposing of the penalties inflicted."

MR. BURT asked if any circular had recently been issued by the Government to the Inspectors of Sheep?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said there had, and he would be happy to lay a copy of the circular on the Table of the House. [*Vide* "Debates," September 2nd.]

## THE "ROB ROY" AND "OTWAY" CONTRACT.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to cause to be laid upon the Table of the House the existing contract, or a copy thereof, between the Government and the owners of the s.s. 'Rob Roy' and 'Otway'; and also asking that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to communicate to the Council whether the Government propose, at the termination of the present contract, to enter into any fresh arrangements with the owners of the said

"steamers; and if the arrangements are complete, to state what those arrangements will be."

Agreed to.

## NORTH-WEST DISTRICT: SPECIAL REVENUE.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to have laid upon the Table of this House a return, in detail, showing the sources of all Special Revenues derived from the North District from the year 1873 to the end of the year 1879; such return to be in accordance with the Act 37th Victoria, No. 10, section 12. Also a detailed return of the cost each year of the Revenue Cutter up to the end of 1879. Also a detailed return showing the items of expenditure and descriptions of Public Works and Buildings in the same district." The hon. member said that, in pursuance of a previous resolution which he had moved, a return had been laid on the Table showing a certain amount of expenditure, but the return, to his mind, was so very vague and unsatisfactory that he was induced to move the present resolution.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): The hon. member got what he asked for.

Motion agreed to.

## ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee for the further consideration of the Estimates.

*Customs Department*, Item £3,337:

Agreed to, without comment.

*Works and Railways Department*, Item £8,625:

MR. STEERE moved that the item "Clerk and Storekeeper, £80," be struck out. The head of the department, in his examination before the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the proposed expenditure connected with the department for the ensuing year, said he did not want such an officer, and he (Mr. Steere) failed to see why the House should make provision for the appointment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said that in justice to himself, who was responsible for the

preparation of the Estimates, he ought to inform the House that he had submitted these items for the inspection of the Director of Public Works, and nothing was then said about such an officer not being required. If, however, the Director of Works now saw his way clear to cut down the expenditure connected with his department, he (the Colonial Secretary) would only be too happy to adopt his views.

Motion agreed to, and the vote for the department (minus that amount) put and passed, without further discussion.

*Postal and Telegraph Department, Item £20,178:*

MR. STEERE moved, That the item "Extra Telegraph Messenger, Champion Bay, £12," be struck out. He failed to see any necessity for an extra messenger at Geraldton.

MR. BROWN also considered that one was quite enough. He had heard no complaints of any unnecessary delays in the delivery of messages.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said that was very likely, as the extra messenger was already employed.

MR. STEERE: Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that the Government have been guilty of such an unconstitutional action as that? Surely they have not appointed this extra messenger without the permission of this House?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I am sorry to say that such an unconstitutional act has been perpetrated by the Government. We have involved the country in an additional expenditure of £12 a year. The appointment, however, was not made without consulting the head of the department (the Postmaster General), and I trust that the recommendations of that officer will be held in the same esteem this Session as they were last year.

MR. STEERE said there must be some mistake. The member for the district acknowledged there was no necessity for an extra messenger, and he moved, that the item be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): Divide.

The Committee thereupon divided, and the £12 was struck off the gross amount (£20,178), by a majority of 13 to 5.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved, That in item "Bridgetown, Postmaster, £10," the figures "£10" be struck out, and "£15" be inserted in their place.

Agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved, That in item "Conveyance of Mails throughout the Colony," the figures "£7,200" be struck out, and the figures "£7,350" be inserted in lieu thereof. The Government, on carefully considering this vote, had come to the conclusion that too small a margin had been left for contingencies in connection with the inland mail service; but if the Committee agreed to the proposed increment (£150), he believed the amount would cover every contingency.

MR. CAREY thought there was already quite sufficient margin. The vote for the present year was only £5,200, and it appeared to him if the Committee increased that to £7,200, they would leave a very handsome margin indeed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said that the difference between these two amounts was accounted for on the other side of the ledger.

MR. STONE said he would vote for the extra amount asked for, although he was free to confess that he did so most unwillingly. He was afraid that, year after year, they would find the new arrangements as regards the conveyance of inland mails costing the country more and more; but until the House resolved upon reverting to the old system he felt bound to support such votes as the Government considered absolutely necessary to maintain the efficiency of the service. He thought they should find, next year, that the amount now voted would prove quite insufficient for the purpose in view.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the present system of mail carrying was, so to speak, in its infancy, and was more expensive than it probably would be as they gained experience. He did not think that next year there would be any necessity for a further increase in connection with this vote.

MR. S. H. PARKER said possibly this was not the proper time to enter

into the whole question of the existing system of mail conveyance, on the merits, but it appeared to him that the Albany service, at any rate, cost more and more as they gained in experience. Last year the whole cost of that service was £2,117; whereas from a return laid on the Table of the House this Session, showing the cost for the first six months of the present year, it appeared that the expenditure amounted to £1,332, being at the rate of £2,664 per annum. So that if the House was going to accept this as a proof of what they might expect in connection with the other branch of the service, he did not think there was much prospect of any reduction in the vote. It must also be borne in mind that there was a number of other expenses connected with this service which did not appear under this head,—such as repairs to stables, etc., which appeared under the head of “Minor Works.” He could not but think it would be much wiser on the part of the Government to revert to the old contract system; he thought they would then find that the mail service could then be carried out at a much cheaper rate than the Government could possibly carry it out. No doubt the Government did the work as cheap as they possibly could, but it was notorious that private individuals could always carry out any service cheaper than the Government could; and should it be proposed, on a future occasion, to revert to the old system of carrying the mails by contract, he should be prepared to support such a proposition.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the hon. member, who had just drawn a comparison between the cost of the Albany service last year and this, had forgotten that last year there was no fortnightly, but only a monthly service. The contract price for the monthly service was £1,200, whereas such a service as they had now, with fortnightly mails, could not be had under £1,800. During the first three months of the present year, nearly £500 were received from the passenger and parcels traffic; and as the conveniences offered by the Government in connection with this traffic became better known they would become better appreciated, resulting in an increased revenue.

MR. S. H. PARKER said that last year the Superintendent of Police furnished the House with a return in which it was shown that the estimated cost of the fortnightly mail during the present year (1880) was £1,784, whereas it appeared from a return placed on the Table this Session that the expenditure during the first six months had been £1,332—showing clearly that there was something radically wrong about the estimate framed, or that the Government could not possibly carry out the service at the cost which they had thought they could. He believed the Government did their best to carry out the service economically, and he believed they had an admirable man in the Superintendent of Police at the head of it. No doubt that officer did his best to cut down the expenditure in connection with the service, but the fact of the matter was it was impossible to do so, and at the same time maintain the present efficiency of the service.

MR. BROWN said he noticed there had been a jump of nearly £2,000 in the estimate of the cost of conveying the inland mails next year, as compared with the cost this year, and he thought the Government were provided with ample margin for all contingencies. It was strange that the Government had not foreseen the necessity of increasing this vote when preparing the Estimates.

MR. HAMERSLEY said the manner in which the mail service was now performed was highly appreciated in the district which he represented. His constituents had not interviewed him on the subject, but there could be no doubt of the popularity of the existing system so far as that district was concerned.

MR. CROWTHER said there were too many mails altogether nowadays—they were being mailed to death. They had neither peace of mind nor body. He thought the Government would act very wisely if, next year, they were to revert to a monthly service.

The motion to increase the item from from £7,200 to £7,350 was then put and negatived, and the vote for the Postal and Telegraph Department, as already amended, agreed to.

*Land Titles Department, Item £855:*  
Agreed to, without discussion.

*Medical Department, Item £7,247 :*

Agreed to, without comment.

*Harbor and Light Department, Item £3,903 :*

MR. STEERE moved, That the Item "Beacons and Buoy, £300," be reduced to £200. He thought a little more economy might be exercised in this department.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said all the votes on the Estimates were cut down to starvation point, and, if they limited the supplies any further, the result would be that these poor "buoys" would go to an untimely grave, through sheer starvation. Perhaps his hon. and learned colleague the Attorney General would inform the House if that would not be manslaughter. The fact of the matter was, these "buoys" required as much looking after and nursing as any infant did, and he hoped the House would not act cruelly towards them.

Question—That Item "Beacons and Buoy, £300," proposed to be struck out, stand part of the Estimates—put.

Committee divided.

Ayes ... .. 9

Noes ... .. 11

Majority against ... 2

#### AYES.

The Hon. G. W. Leake  
The Hon. M. Fraser  
Mr. Brown  
Mr. Burgess  
Mr. Grant  
Mr. Hamersley  
Mr. S. S. Parker  
Mr. Stone  
The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy (Teller.)

#### NOES.

Mr. Burt  
Mr. Carey  
Mr. Crowther  
Mr. Higham  
Sir L. S. Leake  
Mr. Marmion  
Mr. S. H. Parker  
Mr. Randell  
Mr. Shenton  
Mr. Venn  
Mr. Steere (Teller.)

Question—That the figures proposed to be struck out be struck out—put and passed.

Question that the figures "£200" be inserted in lieu thereof—put and passed.

Question—That Item "Harbor and Light Department, £3,803," as amended, stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

*Judicial Department, Item £9,520 read :*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved, That in the item "Messenger and Caretaker, Supreme Court, £30," the figures £30 be struck out and "£48" be inserted in lieu thereof.

MR. STEERE asked for some explanation with reference to the item. It was the first time it had ever appeared on the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the present Chief Justice had his chambers in the Supreme Court-house, and not at his private residence, as the late Chief Justice had; and it was absolutely necessary that there should be a messenger and caretaker attached to the building.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) appealed to the House to spare this vote. If they didn't, the Supreme Court-house would be unapproachable with fleas.

The proposal to increase the vote was negatived.

MR. STONE called attention to the item "Registrar, Master, Keeper of Records, Supreme Court, and Registrar in Bankruptcy." The gentleman now occupying this position was well known to be an efficient officer; but what he wished to call the attention of the Government to was the fact that an essentially legal office was held by a non-professional gentleman. He hoped that, when an opportunity offered, without injury to vested interests, the office would in future be filled by a legal practitioner, as it was elsewhere.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I think the hon. member is out of order. This is not the time to speak upon matters of general principle, like this.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: The hon. member is quite in order.

MR. BURT: Any one who is at all cognisant of parliamentary practice would have known that.

MR. STONE, continuing, said the duties performed by this officer were essentially of a legal character, and in all other parts of the world were performed by barristers of several years standing. It was impossible for a non-professional man to discharge the duties with satisfaction even to himself, and the result was that a great many matters connected with the office were thrown upon the Chief Justice, which would not otherwise be the case.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) said the

anomaly in connection with the appointment of a Registrar in this instance, like a great many other anomalies, really cured itself. The present holder of the office was a singularly efficient, painstaking, and a very intelligent man. They must bear in mind that what he might call the social constitution of the Court here was different to what it is in older and more populous communities. If Mr. Cowan was confused or in doubt upon any point, in consequence of the arguments brought to bear upon him by the practitioners—and he might say, in all honesty, that the arguments held before the Registrar were directed with a view to enlighten him and to keep him straight rather than to mislead and deceive him—he had always the Judge to appeal to. The evils apprehended by the hon. member who had mentioned the subject were theoretical and speculative rather than real. No doubt we should like to see the office held by an experienced professional gentleman, drawing the immense salary of £300 a year; but, under the circumstances, he thought neither the public nor the profession had any cause for complaint.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said it really was *reductio ad absurdum* to go on like this in Committee of Supply, discussing principles upon which appointments should be made instead of voting the items on the Estimates. They would never get through the Estimates at all, if they were going to discuss principles with reference to every clerk or appointment they came to. If that was to be allowed—if the Chairman's ruling was right—they might be there until the middle of next century. He, of course, bowed with all due deference to the Chairman's ruling, but still he could not help thinking that if his decision was a correct one, the Committee would be placed in an altogether false position.

**MR. STEERE:** There is no "thinking" about it. I am quite sure the Chairman of Committees is right in his ruling, that we have every right to discuss these items. The hon. gentleman must be aware that in the House of Commons very often a whole sitting is occupied in the discussion of a single item on the Estimates.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES:** I think the hon. gentleman ought to be aware that when the Crown asks for supplies, that is the time when grievances are ventilated and redressed.

**MR. STEERE** expressed a hope that in any fresh arrangements that may hereafter be made with respect to the appointment of a Registrar, the Government would bear in mind what had fallen from the hon. member, Mr. Stone.

**MR. STONE** called attention to Item "Clerk to Attorney General, £200." He could not understand how it was this officer was designated clerk to the Attorney General; it ought to be clerk to the Crown Solicitor. A sum of £90 a year was quite sufficient pay for the Attorney General's clerk. Originally the salaries paid were—£110 for the clerk to the Crown Solicitor, £90 for the clerk to the Attorney General. He thought it would be better in future that the two should appear under their respective headings.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. G. W. Leake) said when the present occupant of the office (Mr. Pentlow) died, it would probably be as well to have two clerks—one for the Attorney General and one for the Crown Solicitor, as suggested by Mr. Stone; but he thought it would be very hard indeed upon a very deserving subordinate public officer if in his old age he were mulcted of any portion of his miserable pay.

**MR. STEERE** referred to the item "Court House Expenses, £190," showing an increase of £40 upon the vote for the present year. He failed to understand why the expenses should be augmented next year, especially seeing that they had just voted a sum for a caretaker and messenger. He would therefore move that the amount be reduced to £150.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the votes for previous years under this head had proved insufficient, and the amount now placed on the Estimates did not exceed the average actual expenditure during the past three years.

The motion to reduce the amount was negatived, and the vote for the Judicial Department, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

*Police Department, Item £19,740 12s. 6d.:*

MR. BROWN advocated the claims of Mr. Inspector Timperley to an increase of pay. That officer—an educated, intelligent, and high-minded gentleman—had been in the service for something like a quarter of a century, and during the past twenty years he had received no increase whatever to his salary, beyond some paltry £15 for ration allowance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the Government fully recognised this officer's claim to increased remuneration, and as it seemed to be the wish of the House, he would have much pleasure in placing an additional sum of £25 on the Estimates for his salary. He accordingly moved that £275 be inserted in lieu of £250.

Agreed to.

*Gaol Department, Item £5,800 :*

A conversation took place with reference to the number of warders employed at Geraldton, but ultimately the vote was passed.

*Rottnest Prison Department, Item £1,970 :*

*Printing Department, Item £1,599 :*

*Inspection of Sheep Department, Item £1,250 :*

These votes were agreed to, *sub silentio*.

*Educational Department, Item £9,870 :*

MR. STEERE said this was becoming a very expensive department—more expensive to the public than it really need be, in consequence of the laxity of the system in practice with reference to free scholars. A great many children whose parents could well afford to pay their school fees were now being educated at public expense, and he hoped some steps would be taken to prevent this imposition.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the matter had not escaped the attention of the Central Board, and that the attention of several of the District School Boards had been called to the existing system, with a view to remedy the evil complained of by the hon. member. There was no doubt that some of these Boards had acted most improperly in this respect—the Fremantle Board in particular; nor was Perth free from blame in the matter. Children had been allowed to attend school gratuitously simply on the *ipse dixit* of individual members of the District Boards, and

without any regard whatever to the necessity of enforcing punctual and regular attendance as the first condition upon which certificates entitling scholars to free instruction should be granted. The Central Board, in the by-laws which they had framed, had specially drawn the attention of the District Boards to this matter, and impressed upon them the necessity of due caution being exercised in recommending free certificates; but notwithstanding this fact, he had reason to believe that there were a large number of children receiving their instruction gratuitously whose parents could well afford to pay for their schooling. He hoped his successor in office, whoever he might be, would look particularly into this matter, and not allow these District Boards to evade the regulations.

MR. CROWTHER thought there was a tendency on the part of some people to educate our children to death. He thought all the State could be fairly expected to provide in this direction was simply the rudiments of education—what he might call the necessities of a scholastic life, and not the luxuries. The Educational vote was really assuming alarming proportions, for the item of £9,870 now under consideration only formed a part of the expenditure in connection with this subject; there were the school fees and the school buildings to be considered, and, altogether, he ventured to say that the Colony spent no less than about £13,000 a year for the education of a few children. And what was the result? Did it tend to supply the Colony with the class of labour it stood in need of? He would guarantee that if the Government advertised for fifty laborers—not 'loafers,' but laborers—to-morrow, they would not get a dozen applications; but let them advertise for fifty clerks, and the probability was they would get 500 applications. He thought the time was coming when we might fairly reduce our expenditure upon education, and expend the money more judiciously. As to the non-payment of school fees by children who were well able to pay, it was all very well for the Central Board to blame the District Boards, but he thought the proper persons to interfere in this matter were the teachers.

MR. STONE said that as a representative of the Perth District Board he might

fairly say that every possible effort was being made to prevent those children from getting on the free list who were not proper recipients of such eleemosynary aid; but, regard being had to the compulsory principle of the Act, the Board had experienced some difficulty in deciding how far they could enforce the regulations as to payment of school fees.

MR. STEERE asked what became of the difference between the amount placed on the Estimates for the salary of the Secretary of the Education Board (£220) and the amount now actually paid to the gentleman holding that position?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): It is not drawn.

MR. STEERE: Then what's the use of voting it?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): In case of another appointment being made. The present holder of the office draws a pension from the Imperial Government, and to that extent the Colony is a gainer.

MR. RANDELL thought a considerable saving might be effected if less pretentious and consequently less expensive school buildings were erected than those which had lately been built, which were altogether too expensive to meet the requirements, and the means, of the Colony. He considered it very desirable that the House should be placed in possession of the plans and specifications of public buildings before they were asked to vote large sums of money for the erection of edifices altogether beyond the requirements of the country.

MR. MARMION suggested that, in future, the vote for repairs and alterations to school buildings should be placed under the head of "Education Department," so that the expenditure of the money should be more under the control of the Central Board of Education than it was at present.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he saw no objection to that being done in future Estimates.

MR. MARMION thought it might as well be done in the Estimates now under consideration, if there was no objection.

He would therefore move, That the item "Repairs and Alterations to School Buildings, £500," (which now appeared under the head of "Works and Buildings") should be added under the head of "Contingencies" in the vote for the Educational Department.

Agreed to, and the vote, as amended, passed.

*Poor Relief Department, Item, £5,562:*

*Aboriginal Department, Item £1,150:*

*Special Coast Survey, Item £2,000:*

*Government and Public Gardens, Item £145:*

These votes were agreed to without discussion.

*Works and Buildings, Item £4,100:*

MR. STEERE said that, in the existing financial condition of the Colony, the public must expect to be called upon to make some sacrifice, and he thought it would not entail much loss if they were to do without the Steam Dredge. This vessel had not been worked for some time past, and in the absence of available convict labor, he presumed there was no likelihood of its being utilised for some time to come. He would therefore move that the item "Steam Dredge, £400," be struck out.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) pointed out that although the Dredge might remain idle, it would be necessary to employ somebody to look after the machinery and to keep it in order.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said that very shortly some of the prison parties now employed in quarrying stone would be removed, and might be available for working the Dredge. He therefore thought it would be unwise to strike out this vote, especially in view of the new Recreation Ground to be filled in.

MR. SHENTON also thought it would be a great pity to strike out the item altogether; he would therefore move, as an amendment, That it be reduced by £200.

MR. MARMION suggested that the amount be reduced to £100. For years past this vessel had been employed for the sole benefit of the inhabitants of Perth, and not for the good of the general public. Indeed he might say that no benefit whatever, of any practical utility, had accrued from its operations—certainly

nothing commensurate with the cost of working it.

MR. RANDELL said, on the contrary, the Dredge had been doing very useful work in the river, in improving its navigation, and proved a great boon to those engaged in the river trade. He thought it was very desirable that it should continue the work it had begun, especially in that part of the river between Perth and Guildford. He was afraid that much injury would result to the bottom of the vessel if she were allowed to lie idle for any length of time, while her machinery would be ruined unless it was carefully looked after.

MR. BROWN thought it would be very interesting to have a return showing what this same Dredge had cost the Colony. He thought that notwithstanding the fact that it had been worked by convict labor, and free of expense to this Colony in that respect, still the expenditure in connection with it had already amounted to many thousands of pounds. He had always looked upon it as a "white elephant," and he thought the sooner it was superannuated the better.

MR. STONE said it was not at all improbable that the services of the Dredge would be required next year in the vicinity of Fremantle. There was no knowing yet what effect the new railway bridge across the river might have upon the silting, and he thought it well that they should be prepared for such a contingency.

MR. BURT could quite understand the hon. member (Mr. Randell) advocating the retention of this vote, and if the Government would hand over the Dredge to that gentleman he (Mr. Burt) would not be disposed to oppose the vote himself. They might get some good out of it then. At present the only place it effectually dredged was the Treasury.

MR. S. H. PARKER said surely Perth had some claim to the consideration of the House, and, seeing how useful the Dredge would be in helping to fill in the Recreation Ground at the River side—a much needed work—he did hope the Committee would pause before they agreed to strike out this vote altogether.

Question—That the sum be reduced by £200—put.

Committee divided with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	12
Noes	...	...	7

Majority for	...	5
--------------	-----	---

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. R. T. Golds.	Mr. Brown
worthy	Mr. Burt
The Hon. G. W. Leake	Mr. Carey
Mr. Burges	Mr. Grant
Mr. Crowther	Mr. Higham
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Marmion
Sir L. S. Lenke	Mr. Steere (Teller.)
Mr. S. S. Parker	
Mr. Randell	
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Stone	
Mr. Venn	
Mr. S. H. Parker (Teller.)	

The amendment was therefore carried.

MR. STEERE moved, That Item "Hospital at Roebourne, £500," be struck out. The same vote was on the Estimates last year, and, as it was not likely to be expended, would probably appear again in next year's Estimates.

The Item "Repairs and Alterations to School Buildings, £500," was struck out on the motion of Mr. Marmion.

Motion agreed to, and the vote for "Works and Buildings," as amended, put and passed.

*Roads and Bridges, Item £3750:*

MR. STEERE said he often had had some very disagreeable duties to perform in the House, in moving reductions in public expenditure, in various directions, which had been very unpopular, and the same duty now devolved upon him. Somebody, he supposed, must undertake the unpleasant task of "belling the cat," and the operation in the present instance had been entrusted to him. As he had previously said, he thought the fairest way to deal with the vote for our roads was by a resolution of the House annually, rather than by any hard and fast rule prescribed by legislative enactment. This would enable the House each year to fix the vote according to the means at their disposal, and with an eye to our requirements. At present, everyone was aware of the necessity there existed for exercising the strictest economy in this and every direction, and if they hoped to be able to go on with railway construction and telegraph extension they must be prepared to make some sacrifices in other directions. He had therefore to move that the vote for "Roads and Bridges" be reduced from £3,750 to £1,000, which



sum should be expended upon Main Roads only.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the Government had thought it incumbent upon them to provide for the maintenance of minor as well as main roads, as no steps had been taken by the House to compel the settlers themselves to maintain the minor roads in their respective districts in repair. The Government had hoped that the Council would have passed a Bill rendering it compulsory upon the various districts to tax themselves for the up-keep of their minor roads; but as that had not been done, the Government felt bound to retain this sum on the Estimates. He might point out that it mattered very little to the Government what the House might do with regard to the vote; the matter was entirely in the hands of hon. members themselves—the occupants of the Government benches would not vote on the question either one way or the other.

MR. RANDELL was not in the secret of the elected members, and therefore it seemed marvellous to him that they should propose to reduce this vote, which he considered as absolutely necessary for the well-being of the Colony. But he supposed it was the result of a compact entered into to reduce the Estimates of Expenditure by every possible means for the purpose of carrying out their pet project of railway extension. It should, however, be borne in mind that the railway would not serve every district, and roads would have to be kept in repair or traffic entirely stopped. The item had already been cut down from £11,000 to £3,750, and he hoped the House would oppose any further reduction.

MR. VENN said he heartily endorsed what had fallen from the hon. member who had last spoken. The proposal to reduce this vote from £3,750 to £1,000 was only another proof of what had been already stated, namely, that, in the opinion of some hon. members, all other public works were to be sacrificed for the purpose of carrying out the proposed railway extension. He would most cordially support the retention of the whole vote on the Estimates.

MR. CAREY would also support the vote as it stood at present. In fact, he considered the amount too small alto-

gether, bearing in mind the number of districts that would be in no way benefited by the railway extension, as regards improved means of communication—districts, moreover, that had received very little assistance indeed as yet from the Road Loan, and which were likely to receive still less.

MR. BROWN did not regard the amount now on the Estimates as excessive, even in view of the Road Loan expenditure and of the much-talked-about deficit, and he thought it would be very unfair indeed towards those districts that were not likely to derive any benefit either from the loan or the railway to deprive them altogether from any public grant for road purposes, whilst other districts were having thousands of pounds expended in improving their means of communication.

MR. MARMION presumed that the object of the hon. member for the Swan in reducing the vote was to carry out what the Bill was intended to have effected, namely, to induce the District Boards to bear their share of the cost of maintaining the minor roads in their respective districts.

MR. VENN: In other words, he would tax the country people for the purpose of keeping their minor roads in repair, so as to provide the inhabitants of the towns with railway communication.

MR. BURT said that, so far as his own inclinations went, he would not give these District Boards a single penny until they accepted, and put into practical effect, the leading principle of the Act under which they were established—that of local taxation for the maintenance of local roads. They had just given them £50,000, and what more did they want? These people would go any length to tax the inhabitants of the towns, but when the townspeople retaliated they were met with the strongest opposition.

MR. HAMERSLEY said it appeared to him that the hon. member for the Murray seemed to forget that he was himself a country member. Perhaps, however, that was an erroneous impression. As to main and minor roads, he did not think we had many minor roads in the Colony. All he knew was this—he had to keep eleven miles of road in order at his own expense, not alone for

his own use but for the use of the public—and no doubt other settlers were similarly situated—for the purpose of being enabled to reach their so-called minor roads. It must be borne in mind that country residents suffered many disadvantages compared with the town residents. The latter had their letters and their newspapers delivered at their very doors, whereas, in the country, people had to ride or send in miles for them. The same again with telegraphic messages, and many other social conveniences. Their goods, too, cost them about £3 per ton more than the townspeople had to pay for the same articles, because of the expense of carting. Hon. members should bear all this in mind, and exercise a little more consideration when dealing with the claims of country settlers.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said if the Committee divided on the question, he should certainly vote for the amount as it now stood.

**MR. S. H. PARKER:** The hon. gentleman told us distinctly a few minutes ago that none of the Government members would vote on this subject.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): I am afraid I misled hon. members. I was then under the impression that the House would not press the question to a division, and I did not wish to influence hon. members in any way by stating that the Government would vote one way or the other. But if it does go to a division, I shall certainly feel bound to vote for the full amount.

**Question**—That the figures proposed to be struck out stand as the total—put. Committee divided.

Ayes	...	...	7
Noes	...	...	12
Majority against			5

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy	Mr. Burgess
The Hon. G. W. Leake	Mr. Burt
Mr. Carey	Mr. Crowther
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Grant
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Higham
Mr. Randell	Sir L. S. Leake
Mr. Venn	Mr. Marmion
Mr. Brown (Teller.)	Mr. S. H. Parker
	Mr. S. S. Parker
	Mr. Shenton
	Mr. Stone
	Mr. Steere (Teller.)

**Question**—That the figures proposed

to be struck out be struck out—put and passed.

**Question**—That the figures “£1,000” proposed to be inserted be inserted—put.

**MR. SHENTON** moved, as an amendment, That the figures “£1,000” be struck out, and the figures “£2,000” be inserted in lieu thereof.

**Question**—That the figures proposed to be struck out stand as the total—put. Committee divided.

Ayes	...	...	12
Noes	...	...	7
Majority for			5

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy	Mr. Brown
The Hon. G. W. Leake	Mr. Carey
Mr. Burgess	Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Burt	Mr. Higham
Mr. Crowther	Mr. Randell
Mr. Grant	Mr. Venn
Sir L. S. Leake	Mr. Shenton (Teller.)
Mr. Marmion	
Mr. S. H. Parker	
Mr. S. S. Parker	
Mr. Stone	
Mr. Steere (Teller.)	

The amendment was therefore negatived.

**Question**—That “£1,000” be inserted—put and passed.

**Question**—That Item “Roads and Bridges, £1,000,” as amended, stand part of the Estimates—put and passed.

#### MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

**MR. SPEAKER** announced the receipt of the following Messages from His Excellency the Governor:

#### MESSAGE No. 14.

“In reference to the Address of Your Honorable Council No. 21, of the 23rd instant, the Governor has to state that he is unable to furnish any information in relation to the obligations of the Government in respect of the Ecclesiastical Grants beyond such as is already in possession of Your Honorable House. Despatches relating to this subject were laid before Council during the second Session of 1871 and the Governor is not aware that anything has since transpired to throw additional light on the question.

“The Governor forwards herewith a letter which has been addressed to him

"by His Lordship the Bishop of Perth, in reference to Your Address under reply.

"Government House, Perth, 27th August, 1880."

#### MESSAGE No 15.

"In reply to your Address No. 22, of the 23rd instant, the Governor informs Your Honorable House that the Despatches on the question of the acquisition of Crown Lands by Public Officers will be duly communicated to Council so soon as the Secretary of State shall have replied to the Governor's last Despatch on the subject.

"Government House, Perth, 27th August, 1880."

#### MESSAGE No. 16.

"The Governor has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Messages of Your Honorable House, Nos. 8, 10, 17, 24, and 25, and to state that the matters therein referred to will receive due attention.

"Government House, Perth, 27th August, 1880."

#### MESSAGE No. 17.

"The Governor has much pleasure in informing the Legislative Council that he has received a telegram from the Secretary of State, conveying His Lordship's general approval of the new Regulations for the Kimberley District. The correspondence is forwarded herewith for the information of Your Honorable Council.

"Government House, Perth, 27th August, 1880."

#### MESSAGE No. 18.

"The Governor forwards herewith, for the consideration of the Legislative Council, the correspondence which has passed between the Government and Messrs. Lilly & Co., on the subject of extending the Coastal Steam Service to Nickol Bay.

"Government House, Perth, 27th August, 1880."

#### ESTIMATES.

##### IN COMMITTEE.

*Immigration Grant, Item £4,000:*

MR. MARMION moved that this vote be reduced to £2,000, which he thought

was quite as much as the Colony could afford at the present time. While on the subject of immigration he thought it was very desirable that the House should express an opinion as to the method in which this amount should be expended. A considerable degree of dissatisfaction had been felt with regard to the system in vogue hitherto, more especially with regard to the selection of the immigrants sent out here. He did not wish for a moment to blame those who had to carry out the system, but he thought most people would agree with him that in reality it was simply a capitulation grant, without reference whatever to the suitability of the immigrants sent out. That perhaps had not been so much the case during the last twelve months, for the system of nominating immigrants had been in a great measure adopted. But it appeared there were defects even in that system. At any rate he was informed, whether correctly or not he could not say, that a person employing a number of mechanics, being desirous of getting out a few of that class of immigrants, made application to the Government to be allowed to nominate one or two mechanics, but his application was refused, on the ground that the persons whom he proposed to nominate were not relatives or connections of his. If that was the case, he thought the principle in operation was altogether contrary to the views and wishes of that House. His idea of the principle of nomination was that in the event of any colonist undertaking to take the nominated immigrant off the hands of the Government upon his arrival in the Colony, the person or persons so arriving would be entitled to be regarded as a nominated immigrant, without necessarily being any relative or family connection of the person nominating him. As to Coolie immigration, he might reiterate what he had said on former occasions, namely, that he did not think it advisable that the public funds should be expended in the introduction of that class of immigrants. His opinion on this subject always had been that the Government might be fairly asked to negotiate the business for the settlers requiring the services of these Coolies, but he certainly would compel those who wanted them to pay their passages into the Colony, and, if

necessary, their return passages. There was one particular class of immigrants which was greatly required, and that was single girls. Everywhere you went, the cry was heard for this class of domestic servants. It might be said that there was a difficulty in obtaining this description of immigrants; but, many years ago, we used to receive three or four batches of immigrants during the year, and a considerable proportion of them were single girls, and the majority of them Irish girls, and capital servants they were too. He believed a more respectable class of immigrants never came to this or any other Colony than was to be found among those Irish girls. Many of them were now the wives of respectable, and in many cases wealthy, settlers, and both as wives and as mothers were a credit to the Colony. They had brought up families that were an honour to themselves and to their adopted country; and he thought the same field was still open to select from, and that similar supplies might be again obtained. And there could be no more opportune time than the present for endeavoring to secure this class of immigrants, when the country they come from was unfortunately suffering from a series of drawbacks and disasters. He believed, if an effort were made, that respectable families of men, women, and children, of a most desirable class might be obtained, including single girls, in great numbers—at all events, a far greater number than we would absorb. He wished particularly to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that there was a great demand and a great need for this class of immigrants.

MR. SHENTON said it might not be known to all hon. members that the system of nominated immigration had been altered during the past year. Under the new regulations which had been issued by the Colonial Office to Mr. Felgate, who was now acting as our immigration commissioner, anybody who might be nominated as emigrants might have a free passage out here if the person nominating them gave a guarantee that no further expense would be entailed upon the Government beyond the cost of their passage out. This arrangement, it must be admitted, was a great improvement upon the old system, for people who

came out as emigrants now were people likely to settle down in the Colony. Under these circumstances, he should be sorry to see the Immigration Grant reduced to less than £3,000. He should prefer to see it remain at the sum proposed by the Government, but in the face of the absolute necessity for practising retrenchment in every possible direction, he would not oppose a reduction of £1000 in the grant.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) thought it would be as well to correct an erroneous impression which seemed to be entertained outside the House, and which had been referred to by the hon. member for Fremantle—that it was necessary that the persons nominating immigrants from Home must necessarily be relatives of the parties nominated. This was not so, and he would be glad if the hon. member would furnish him with the name of the person to whom he had alluded as nominating a number of mechanics, and whose application it was alleged had been refused on the ground that the persons nominated were no relatives or connections of his. No such rule was in operation. All the Government required was a guarantee from the person nominating, that the immigrants brought out at public expense should not become a burden upon the Government after their arrival here. As to whether the House voted £3,000 or £4,000 for immigration purposes, that of course was a matter of perfect indifference to the Government. They had placed the larger amount on the Estimates in deference to what they conceived to be the general wish of the country, and in view of the great outcry for more labor.

MR. S. H. PARKER understood that under the present system nominated immigrants could only be obtained from England, and that it cost the Colony about £18 per head for bringing them out. He failed to see why the nomination system should not be extended to the neighboring Colonies, whence the cost of a passage would not be more than £4 or £5. He believed that persons arriving here from the other Colonies would prove far more suitable to our requirements than those we were likely to get from England. He did not go so far as to advocate that immigrants introduced

into the sister Colonies at public expense should be induced to come here by the offer of a free passage, but that the same system of nomination as obtained with regard to immigrants from the mother country should be applied as regards the neighboring Colonies, where many people here had friends and relatives whom they might be glad to nominate. He did not think any of the Colonies would object to such a proposition as that.

[THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy), at this stage, left the House.]

MR. STEERE: I find myself placed in a very awkward position. The hon. gentleman has left the House and intimated that it is not his intention to return again this evening. The Committee certainly require to be furnished with information relative to the items placed on the Estimates, and cannot be expected to vote the money in the dark; and, although members are anxious to get on with the work, I fail to see how they can be expected to do so in the absence of the leader of the Government. I believe His Excellency the Governor has stated to several hon. members that he is very anxious indeed that the work of the Session should be completed as soon as possible, and I know members are prepared to do all they can, compatible with their duties to the country, to gratify the Governor's desire; but it is not our fault if the work is not done, seeing that the Government do not seem to care whether they are represented in the House or not. Under these circumstances, I beg to move that Progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again at the next meeting of Council.

MR. BROWN said every desire had been manifested on the part of the elected members to proceed with the Sessional business, and no doubt the Government were equally desirous of getting on with the work. Under ordinary circumstances, the departure of the Colonial Secretary from the House, when the Estimates were under consideration, would no doubt be a very proper cause for complaint, but it must have been apparent to everyone that the hon. gentleman was not physically capable of proceeding with the work that evening, and he thought it was solely on that account

that the hon. gentleman had left the House.

Progress was then reported.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock, a.m., on Saturday, 28th August.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 30th August, 1880.*

Colonial Secretary's and Public Works Departments: Report of Select Committee—Public Lands held by Government Officials—Messages (Nos. 19 and 20)—Proceedings in Committee of Supply—Estimates: Further consideration of—District Roads Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: third reading—Jury Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: re-committed—Destructive Insects and Substances Bill: third reading—Supreme Court Bill: re-committed—Audit Bill: third reading—Recognition of Services of Alexander Forrest and Party: Adjourned Debate—Report of the Pearl Shell Fishery Commission—Municipal Institutions Act, 1876, Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

## COLONIAL SECRETARY'S AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved, "That the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the proposed expenditure in the Colonial Secretary's Department and the Public Works Department (*vide* page 200, *ante*) be adopted."

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

MR. STEERE moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor requesting that he will be pleased to take the same into his consideration."

Question—put and passed.

## PUBLIC LANDS HELD BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

MR. BURT, in accordance with notice, moved, "That the House resolve itself a Committee of the whole to take into consideration His Excellency's Mes-