

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 7th September, 1883.

Remission of Duty on Orphanage Goods—Salaries of Officers of the Postal and Telegraph Department—Appropriation Bill, 1884: first reading—Intestate Estates Bill: third reading—Districts Roads Act Amendment Bill: recommitted—Private Bonded Warehouses Bill: third reading—Wild Cattle Nuisance Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: in committee—Municipalities Act Amendment Bill: in committee—Immigration Bill: in committee—Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Gold Mining Regulations—Transfer of Land Act, 1874, Amendment Bill: in committee—Suspension of Standing Orders—District Roads Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Wild Cattle Nuisance Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: third reading—Transfer of Land Act, 1874, Amendment Bill: third reading—Municipalities Act Amendment Bill: third reading—Immigration Bill: third reading—Water-boring operations in Eucla District—Appropriation Bill, 1884: second reading; in committee; third reading—Suspension of Standing Orders—Immigration Board—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

REMISSION OF DUTY ON ORPHANAGE GOODS.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, moved, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying he will be pleased to remit the Customs duties chargeable on two cases of boots imported by the *Alfred Hawley*, for the Roman Catholic Orphanage; and also to remit the Customs duties on any other goods imported during this year for the use of or consumption at any Orphanage in the colony. The hon. member said he believed there was a great deal in what the hon. member for Toodyay stated the other day as to these Orphanages not being sufficiently supported out of public funds, and if he (Mr. Parker) had known as much about the matter then as he had since ascertained, he certainly should have voted with the hon. member to increase the grant from 8d. to 10d. a day, for he now understood the cost of the maintenance of each orphan to be about 1s. 4d. a day; and if that House could do anything to relieve the charges upon these institutions without burdening the revenue, he thought it might fairly do so. The invoice value of these two cases of boots was £34, and the duty on them would be between £4 and £5. They had not yet been cleared, so that there would be no refund. With regard to the latter part

of the address he had confined it to this year, as he thought it would be time enough to deal with it next year when the House is in session again. He might add that there was a precedent for this motion afforded by that brought forward the other day by the hon. member for Plantagenet, when the House agreed to an address asking the Governor to remit the duty on a bell imported for a church at Albany.

MR. SHENTON was glad to hear the hon. member admit that he made a mistake in voting against the proposed increase of the grant-in-aid to these Orphanages the other day. He thought it was only right that the goods required for these institutions should be admitted, if possible, duty free. He was aware the Governor had no power to remit Customs duties, of his own accord, without the sanction of the Legislature, but if this address were passed, the amount of duty remitted might be included in the supplementary Estimates next year.

SIR LUKE LEAKE was sorry to see this motion brought forward. He thought it was a mistake to interfere with the tariff in any way, at such a time, and he would ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion, on the understanding that he (Sir Luke) himself would send the Orphanage a cheque for the amount.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said His Honor the Speaker had put forward an argument which was incontrovertible, so far as this particular case was concerned, in generously offering to pay the duty himself; but there were two or three points in connection with the subject of a remission of duties which he wished to bring under the attention of the committee. The question of the insufficiency of the grant-in-aid made by the Government towards the support of the Orphanages had already been under discussion; and on that occasion he had opposed the proposal to increase the grant for the reason that it was not put forward by those who were chiefly concerned. The House was then informed, with a mighty voice, that so far as the Protestant Orphanage was concerned the managers of that institution did not ask for any increase. He might state that the Government took a very great interest in these institutions, and if a proposal should be made next

session to increase the grant-in-aid from public funds, and the proposal was supported by the House, there would be no difficulty—he could not imagine there would be any difficulty—so far as the Government was concerned. But what he wished to draw attention to now was this: whether it was bells for a church, or whether it was boots for an orphanage, it was a bad principle to go on, this inclination on the part of hon. members from time to time to advise the Government to break the law. The Government was not responsible for the schedule of the Act which made bells or boots taxable, and he thought it was a bad policy for members to come forward in this way, asking His Excellency to infringe upon the provisions of the statute law. It would be far better to vote a sufficient sum out of public funds towards the support of these institutions, than to deal with them differently from other people as regards the duties payable under the Customs Act. As regards the two case of boots by the *Alfred Hawley*, he might say, that on looking at the invoice he had elicited this fact: these boots were professedly imported for the use of the inmates of an Orphanage, and, as hon. members were aware, the general impression was that the inmates of these institutions were, as a rule, children of tender age, boys and girls, whereas he observed that, according to the invoice, these boots were men's and women's boots, and not boys' and girls'. But, letting that pass, he did think it was a wrong policy for that House to adopt, to ask the Government to make any distinction, whether as regards orphanages or churches, with reference to the duties payable under the law for goods imported into the colony. He would much rather we should say to these people, "We will increase your allowance out of public funds; the colony is in a better position now than it was a few years ago, and we can afford to give you more; we are in a position now to give you (say) a shilling a day for each child, instead of 8d.; but the law must be carried out, without reference to persons or institutions."

MR. S. H. PARKER said he quite agreed with the Colonial Secretary that the principle involved in asking the Government to remit duties was a bad one,

and he should not have moved in the matter but for the fact that he had ascertained, since the motion of the hon. member for Toodyay was under discussion, that these Orphanages really did not receive that assistance out of the public funds which they ought to receive. [The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Hear, hear.] And as it was not proposed to give them any additional subsidy he had acquiesced, when asked to bring forward the request now made. In view, however, of the kind and generous offer made by His Honor the Speaker—an offer which disarmed all criticism—he had much pleasure in bringing this discussion to a close by moving that the Chairman do now leave the chair.

The matter then dropped.

SALARIES OF OFFICERS OF THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased, when considering the question of increasing the salaries of the civil servants of the Crown in this colony, to specially consider the claims of the officers of the Postal and Telegraph Department to a substantial increase over and above any proposed percentage calculated on present salaries; as the duties of these officers entail longer hours, while the salaries are smaller than in any other Department of the service." He referred more particularly to the subordinate officers, and he would point out that those employed in the Telegraph Department required special qualifications. He did not think that an increase of salary based upon a percentage of the salaries now received would result in substantial justice being done to the officers.

MR. RANDALL said that personally he would be opposed to the address being presented, but, in order that the House might be placed in possession of the motion, he rose to second it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) regarded the resolution as superfluous, and any action on the part of the House based upon it a work of supererogation, from the fact that it was understood by the Government that the

wish of the Legislature was that the salaries of all Government officers shall be considered during the recess, with the view of bringing forward proposals for their increase at the next session. He thought himself it would be invidious to single out any particular department of the public service in this way, as the whole question was one that would receive the earnest consideration of the Government, and must necessarily engage the attention of that House at its next session. Under these circumstances, he saw no necessity whatever for this address. The heads of the various departments would be consulted, and not only would the individual merits and claims of officers be considered but at the same time the general condition of the departments would be looked into. Probably outside assistance might be asked for, to enable an entirely unbiassed opinion to be arrived at in the matter.

MR. S. H. PARKER thought it would be better not to press this address, in view of the assurances of the head of the Government that the whole question of salaries would be considered during the recess. What he understood the hon. gentleman to say was this—that probably a Commission would be appointed to consider the condition of the civil service generally and to advise the Government as to the question of salaries; that the heads of the various departments would be consulted as to the claims and merits of individual officers of the departments; and that independent members, outside the Government, would be asked to give their assistance. Under these circumstances, he thought it would be unwise to press this resolution, as the Governor might think it somewhat tied his hands, if one particular department of the service were to be treated differently from other departments. At the same time he felt bound to record his opinion that the officers of the Postal and Telegraph Department did not appear to be so well paid, in proportion to their work, as the officers of other departments. They only had to look at the Estimates to support this statement. It would there be seen that officers who had been in the service for the last sixteen years, some of them performing very responsible duties, were still receiving very small pay. But he had no doubt the Government intended to

do every justice to all the officers of every department, and that the Legislature next session would have a fully considered scheme of increases laid before it. Under these circumstances, as he had full confidence in the Government in this matter, he hoped the hon. member would deem it expedient to withdraw his motion.

MR. CAREY said he had every confidence in the Government himself, and after what had fallen from the Colonial Secretary, and also from the hon. member for Perth, he would, with leave, withdraw his motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): One word in explanation. The hon. member for Perth has apparently jumped at the conclusion that a Commission will necessarily be appointed to deal with this question. I have no authority for saying that such will be the case. What I said was, I had no doubt the Government will make every inquiry, and, if necessary or desirable, will call in assistance; but I have no authority to say that a Commission will be appointed.

MR. RANDELL thought the suggestion thrown out by the hon. member for Perth would meet with the approval of the House, and it appeared to him it would be desirable that a notification should be made that any public officer who approached a member of the Commission with a view to influence him—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): I must rise again to state that I have no authority whatever to allude to the probable appointment of any Commission. I merely referred to the possibility of the Government requiring some assistance.

MR. CAREY: Lest it should be thought for a moment that any officer of the Postal and Telegraph Department has approached me, either by letter or otherwise, with a view to influence my action in this matter, I desire to say that I do not think any single officer of the department knew anything about the motion until it appeared in print.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1884.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to

appropriate the sum of £245,416 0s. 3d. out of the general revenue of the colony for such services as shall come in course of payment during the year 1884.

Bill brought in and read a first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it would expedite business if we were now to move the suspension of the Standing Orders with a view to pass the Bill through its remaining stages.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL thought the constitutional course in dealing with the Appropriation Bill was to defer passing it through its final stages until the other business of the session had been disposed of. This question was discussed at considerable length last year in the House of Commons, and the opinion was generally expressed that the passing of the Appropriation Act ought to be the last act of the session, as it was the only constitutional hold which the representatives of the people had upon the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said his only object was to expedite the business of the session, as he understood the prorogation was to take place next day. If, however, it met with the approval of the House, he would move that the second reading of the Bill be taken that day week.

MR. BROWN suggested that the second reading be taken after the orders of the day had been disposed of.

This was agreed to.

INTESTATES ESTATES BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

DISTRICT ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order of the day for the third reading of this Bill,

MR. CAREY moved that the order be discharged and the Bill recommitted.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 2 reverted to—manner of taking the poll:

MR. CAREY said that in order to ensure the carrying out of the principle of the Bill in its integrity, and to supply an omission which had been brought to his notice since this clause was discussed in committee the other day, he had now

to move to insert the addition of the following words: "Was the name of the candidate for whom the voter wishes his vote recorded written in this voting paper before the said voter signed this voting paper?"

Motion agreed to.

Clause as amended put and passed.

Bill reported.

PRIVATE BONDED WAREHOUSES BILL

Read a third time and passed.

WILD CATTLE NUISANCE ACT, 1871, AMENDMENT BILL.

The House then went into committee on this Bill.

Clause 1—Repealing 12th section of the Act of 1871:

MR. CAREY said he found it was necessary also to amend the second section of the Act, as well as the twelfth. He would therefore move that the clause should read thus: "The second section of the said Act is amended by striking out the words 'annual licensing meeting' in the third line, and inserting the words 'quarterly licensing meeting,' in lieu thereof: and the 12th section of the said Act is hereby repealed."

Agreed to.

Clause 2—"That in each district the Licensing Bench of Magistrates shall meet on the first Wednesday in the months of January, April, July, and October, for the purpose of granting licenses under this Act."

MR. CAREY said he found these were the wrong days, and he had to move that the words "Wednesday in the months of January, April, July, and October," be struck out, and the words "Monday in the months of December, March, June, and September," be inserted in lieu thereof,—these being the quarterly licensing meeting days.

Agreed to.

Clause as amended put and passed.

Clause 3.—Title of Act:

Agreed to.

Bill reported.

MUNICIPALITIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The House then went into committee to consider the Bill, as amended by select committee.

Clause 1.—Short title :

Agreed to.

Clause 2.—“The provisions of the “second section of the Municipal Institutions Further Amendment Act, 1882, “shall apply to the Municipalities of “Perth and Fremantle only. And in “all other Municipalities any ratepayer “shall, subject to the provisions of the “Municipal Institutions Act, 1876, be “qualified to hold office as a Councillor :”

MR. RANDELL said he did not intend to oppose this clause, but he understood that the difficulty with reference to property qualification in country districts simply arose by reason of the rates being assessed too low, and the Municipal Councils declining to assess themselves higher.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clause 3.—“Empowering any Municipal Council to lease any lands vested in the council, or any part of such lands, for the use of any cricket, football, athletic, or other club, for any term not exceeding three years, at such rent and under such conditions as the council may deem expedient; provided that no such lease shall be made for a term exceeding six months without the consent in writing of the Governor :”

MR. RANDELL said he did not intend to oppose the clause, though he had his doubts as to whether it was a step in the right direction to allow municipal councils to lease lands to any particular club or clubs which had been granted to them in trust for the general public.

The clause was then agreed to.

Clause 4.—“If any councillor shall “die, or by notice under his hand delivered to the chairman or clerk of the “municipality shall resign his office, or “shall become incapable from any cause “of continuing to act as a councillor, or “shall be declared ousted of such office “by the Supreme Court, or at any time “during the time for which he is elected “shall cease to be qualified as aforesaid, “or shall be absent from four consecutive “ordinary monthly meetings of the council without leave obtained from the “council in that behalf, then the office “of such councillor shall become vacant, “and every such vacancy shall be deemed “to be an extraordinary vacancy within “the meaning of this Act :”

MR. RANDELL thought this was a most useful clause, the want of which had been felt, he believed, in some municipalities for some time past.

The clause was agreed to, without further comment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had much pleasure in moving a new clause, which he believed would give general satisfaction. It was as follows: “From and after the “passing of this Act, the name, style, “and title of the corporation of the town “of Fremantle, constituted under and by “virtue of the Municipal Institutions “Act, 1871, shall be Mayor, Councillors, “and Burgesses of the town of Fremantle; “and under such name, style, and title “they shall have all and the like rights, “privileges, and immunities as have “been heretofore possessed by them “under the style and title of ‘The Council “and Burgesses of the town of Fremantle.’ “The present Chairman of the Council “of the Municipality of Fremantle shall “be the first Mayor of the said town, “and shall continue in office up to the “30th November next.”

MR. SHENTON, as the Mayor of the city, congratulated the town of Fremantle upon the new dignity conferred upon it. He thought the time had arrived when the chief seaport of the colony should enjoy the same privileges and municipal honors as the capital, in view of its increasing importance, and of the interest which the inhabitants of the town had of late shown in municipal matters.

MR. MARMION, as one of the representatives of Fremantle, thanked the Government on behalf of the Chairman and councillors of the municipality and of the inhabitants generally, for the civic honors conferred upon the town, which he was sure the people of Fremantle would regard as a compliment.

The clause was then agreed to.

Clause 5.—Acts assimilated :

Agreed to.

New clause :

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the following new clause be added to the Bill: “Whenever “in any Act, Law, or Statute, or other “public document or notice, or in any “proceeding of what kind or nature “soever, the Chairman of the Council of “the Municipality of Fremantle has been

"or is referred to or is mentioned, such reference or mention shall be taken to signify and mean the Mayor of Fremantle."

Agreed to.

Preamble and title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

The House then went into committee for the consideration of the Bill entitled "An Act to promote the further settlement of the colony of Western Australia by the establishment of a Board of Immigration, and of an Immigration Fund."

Clause 1.—Short title:

Agreed to.

Clause 2—"For the purposes of this Act there shall be a board, to be called 'The Board of Immigration,' which shall consist of seven persons to be appointed by the Governor, of whom not more than two shall be persons in the service of the Crown, and not less than two shall be members of, and nominated by, the Legislative Council. The Governor shall also appoint a proper person as Secretary of the said Board, and he shall fill up all vacancies in the Board whenever they shall occur."

MR. MARMION said this clause appeared to him somewhat ambiguous and self-contradictory. The first part of it provided that seven members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor, and another part of it enacted that two of them shall be nominated by the Legislative Council.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the intention was that the appointment of all the members of the board should vest in the Governor, but that the Legislature should nominate two of its own members, who would then be appointed by His Excellency to a seat on the board. Two others would be Government officials, and the remaining three would be gentlemen of intelligence selected from amongst the general public, and possessing a practical knowledge of the requirements of the colony. In the event of a vacancy, the intention was that the vacant seat on the board should be filled by a gentleman holding the same position as the person whose seat had become vacant: thus, if a member

of the Legislative Council having a seat on the board resigned or died, the vacancy would be filled up, as far as possible, by the appointment of another member of the Legislative Council, so as always to preserve what he might call the balance of parties on the board. With regard to the duration of the board, that would only be co-existent with the funds at its disposal available for Immigration purposes. At present it was proposed to place a sum of £20,000 out of the surplus revenue at the disposal of the board, and it would be for the Legislature hereafter to vote any further sums it might think proper to be appropriated to the same purpose; and so long as the money lasted the board would continue in existence, but, in the event of the funds becoming exhausted, the occupation of the board would be gone, in the same way as the Central Road Committee might now be regarded as *functus officio*, the Road Loan under which it was called into existence having been expended.

MR. BROWN would have preferred to have seen this board constituted in the same manner as the governors of the High School were appointed, the members retiring at periodical intervals, subject of course to re-election. It would appear that persons appointed to seats on this Immigration Board would be appointed for life: there seemed to be no provision made for their retirement, resignation, or dismissal. Of course, if the immigration fund became exhausted, and there was no money for the board to spend, the board would be to all intents and purposes defunct; at the same time there was nothing in the Bill limiting the duration of the board's existence. He thought it was exceedingly objectionable to appoint members of a public body like this for an indefinite period, and he should have much preferred to see provision made for the members of the board to retire by rotation, say every three or four years.

MR. CROWTHER thought the title of the Bill ought to be "An Act to define a Governor's good intentions," for he was very much afraid it would not prove anything more. Like the hon. member for the Gascoyne, he should have preferred to see the members of the board appointed for a given time, retiring from

office in rotation, so as to admit of the occasional infusion of fresh blood, if necessary. Twenty thousand pounds was a large sum of money to entrust to any board, however constituted, and he could not help thinking it would have been only right that the Legislature should exercise more power as regards appointments to the board. As it was, the Bill at present was a Governor's Bill, pure and simple. It was only natural that, having the appointment of the board almost entirely in his own hands, the Governor would appoint men of his own views, and he could not help thinking the colony would have derived more benefit from the appointment of this board if the Legislature had a stronger voice in the nomination of those having a seat on it, whether from among its own members or from outside. Honestly, he believed the Bill, as framed, would not be a satisfactory one to the country.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said there was a marked difference between the High School board of governors and the board under this Bill. The board of immigration would be a board whose every action would be subject to the scrutiny not only of the Executive Government, but also of the Legislative Council. The High School board was a differently constituted board altogether: it was a corporate body established by statute, having a certain sum voted for it annually for disbursement, as it pleased, in connection with the school, and neither that House nor the Government, he might say, had any power to call into question any action of the board of governors. But the board established by the present Bill was a board consisting of a certain number of persons to whom it was proposed to delegate certain executive functions, which, without this Act, would be exercised by the servants of the Crown, and all the expenditure they incurred would be subject to the scrutiny of the Government and of that House.

MR. CROWTHER said it gave general satisfaction when the hon. gentleman stated on introducing the Bill that this board would be constituted something on the lines of the Central Board of Education. He then thought, as others thought, that larger powers of selection, and a stronger voice, would be given to

that House in the appointment of members to serve on the board, and he could not help thinking it would be wise to do so. He had also been under the impression that the members of the board would have elected their own chairman, and selected the gentleman to be sent home to act as Emigration Agent; whereas it now appeared that all these powers were to be delegated to the Governor.

MR. BROWN said he should not care to see too many members of the Legislature having seats on the board, as it would somewhat fetter their action in the House when the conduct of the board came under review. He should not like to see more than two members of that House on the board, at any rate.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clause 3—Every appointment to be published in the *Government Gazette*:

Agreed to.

Clause 4—All questions to be decided by the board to be decided by the order of the majority of the members present, the chairman to have a casting vote. Four members to constitute a quorum, and the usual place of meeting of the board to be at Perth:

Agreed to, without discussion.

Clause 5—Empowering the Governor, on the recommendation of the board, to appoint corresponding members, not exceeding two in number in each district, who shall have power when they are in Perth to sit and vote at the board's meetings:

This clause was adopted *sub silentio*.

Clause 6—"It shall be the duty of the board to promote, and assist and superintend the introduction into and settlement within the colony of suitable European immigrants by all such means as to the board may seem to be advisable:"

MR. MARMION said he did not know whether it was the intention of the Government or of the House that the operations of the board should be restricted simply to the introduction of immigrants of European extraction. So far as he remembered, it was the general opinion among the members of the select committee that it should be so. [Mr. Brown: No.] His own impression was that such was the case.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the intention of the

present Bill certainly was that the operations of the board should be confined to European immigration. It would be observed that the Emigration Agent was to reside in London.

MR. BROWN thought it was very desirable that the board should have control over all moneys expended upon immigration, whether from Europe or from the East—all classes of immigrants, in fact; and he expressed that opinion strongly when in select committee, but he could not remember whether it was decided in committee that such should be the case or not,—although he was strongly of opinion that it was. If this board were restricted in its operations to European immigration, and the colony should hereafter think fit to obtain labor from other countries than Europe, we should have two separate immigration funds, one controlled by this board and the other by the Government, which he thought would be very undesirable, and very likely to clash.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Government could expend no money upon immigration without the consent and the vote of the Legislature, as there would be no money now available for such purpose, beyond what was proposed to transfer to the fund under the control of this Board. The Council had this session voted £20,000 to be appropriated for the introduction of European immigrants, which sum would be expended by the Board for that purpose, and for that purpose only. The Council hereafter might decide that it was desirable to introduce labor from some other division of the world than Europe; if so, a vote would have to be taken for the purpose, and a specific provision would have to be made for its expenditure by the board.

MR. CROWTHER said the Bill in its present shape virtually shut out all other classes of immigrants except Europeans.

MR. BROWN moved that the word "European" in the fourth line be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said this would neutralise the intention of the Governor, of the select committee, and of the House. The Bill was framed on the lines indicated in the report of the select com-

mittee appointed to consider His Excellency's message, and that report was adopted in its entirety by the House. The various communications made to the Council on the subject by His Excellency were duly taken into consideration by the select committee, as, for instance, whether an effort should be made to obtain Irish agricultural laborers, and it was decided that this would be a most desirable class to introduce; also whether we should encourage Maltese immigration, and it was decided that it would not be desirable to do so, it being considered better to confine our operations for the present at any rate to European immigration and to European immigration alone. The committee never entered into the question of immigration from the East, nor was such immigration contemplated, and if the amendment now proposed were carried it would neutralise the whole of the committee's labors.

MR. BROWN said no doubt the Bill was framed on the recommendation of the select committee, but that did not preclude the House from giving this board such powers as it might deem desirable or expedient. The only question was this—whether, in view of its being considered advisable hereafter to introduce other classes of immigrants than Europeans, it would not be as well, while framing a Bill dealing with the constitution of this board, to provide for such a contingency.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) did not think we wanted an Act at all to regulate the introduction of Oriental immigration at public expense. If people wanted Chinese or Asiatic labor, he thought they ought to introduce that class of labor themselves. What was wanted now was a class of immigrants who would become useful settlers and good citizens, and who would assist in building up a prosperous community.

The motion to strike out the word "European" was then put and negatived, and the clause agreed to.

Clause 7.—"The board shall prepare an annual estimate of the expenditure necessary during each year for the carrying out of such scheme of European immigration as shall, on the recommendation of the board, be approved by the Governor and Legislative

"Council, who may nevertheless vary or alter the said scheme."

MR. MARMION said his own wish would be not to hamper the board or fetter its actions in this way. If we were prepared to entrust it with the expenditure of so large a sum of money as was proposed to entrust it, he thought we might safely leave the board to manage its own affairs with as little outside interference as possible, otherwise the result would be we might render its efforts nugatory. He had expressed his opinion in select committee, and he wished to do so again.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) pointed out that the board would be no more fettered in its actions by having to submit this annual estimate of expenditure than the Executive Government of the colony, who had to do the same thing with regard to the expenditure of public funds.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clauses 8 to 15—defining powers of board to frame regulations, to deal with any lands which shall be placed at its disposal, and to expend all moneys under its control:

These clauses were agreed to, without opposition or discussion.

Clause 16—"The Governor may appoint a person to be Immigration Agent for the colony in London, at such a salary as shall be fixed by the Governor with the approval of the Legislative Council. If the Legislative Council shall not be sitting at the time when the Governor shall make the said appointment, the appointment shall nevertheless be valid without such approval. Such appointment shall be subject to termination at any time by six months notice on either side."

MR. SHENTON understood that this Immigration Board was to have the same powers as the Education Board, who made their own appointments, and he could not help thinking this board would be more likely to prove successful if it had the appointment of its own agents. It was just possible otherwise that the board and the Immigration Agent might not pull together.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said if the hon. member would look at the next clause he would see that the Immigration Agent was

bound to act under the instructions to be given from him from time to time by the board.

MR. BROWN asked whether it was the intention of the Government to fix the salary of the Agent at the sum mentioned by His Excellency in one of his messages—£600 a year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, so far as he was aware, that was the intention; he was not aware of anything to the contrary. The salary, although fixed by the Governor, would be subject to the approval of the Legislative Council, and he supposed would have to be voted by the House, like other salaries.

MR. BROWN said it was useless to suggest that the House might hereafter refuse to vote the Agent's salary, seeing that it would come out of the £20,000 already voted. The 19th clause provided that all expenditure whatever under this Act shall be defrayed out of the immigration fund.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) thought they might trust the Governor to do what was right and fair in this matter, seeing that in reality the whole scheme had emanated from His Excellency himself.

The clause was then agreed to, as also the remaining clauses, and the Bill was reported to the House as having passed through committee without amendment.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOLD MINING REGULATIONS.

On the order of the day for the consideration of the report of the select committee appointed to consider the Gold Mining Regulations laid on the table by the Government,

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest), without comment, moved the following resolution: "That this Council approves of the report of the select committee on Gold Mining Regulations, together with the negotiations submitted by His Excellency and approved by the select committee."

Agreed to, *sub silentio*.

TRANSFER OF LAND ACT, 1874, AMENDMENT BILL.

The House then went into committee on this Bill, the various clauses of which

were agreed to, without discussion or comment.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

On the motion of Mr. Brown, the Standing Orders were suspended, with the view of passing the remaining Bills on the paper through their various stages.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned during leisure.

HOUSE RESUMED.

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

DISTRICT ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

WILD CATTLE NUISANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

TRANSFER OF LAND ACT, 1874, AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

MUNICIPALITIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

WATER-BORING OPERATIONS IN EUCLA DISTRICT.

On the order of the day for the consideration of the resolution contained in the report of the select committee appointed to consider certain applications for grants in aid of well-boring operations in the Eucla district,

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, who was chairman of the select committee, said the question referred to the committee was not only that of the applications made by the two companies who had taken up the major part of what was commonly called the Eucla plains, but also the general question of encouraging such undertakings by Government subsidies. He greatly regretted that this question did not come before the House at an earlier date, for he

thought it was high time we gave the subject a larger consideration than they had been able to do within the short time at the disposal of the committee. As to the general policy of giving State aid for the encouragement of water-boring operations, no definite lines upon which such assistance ought to be given had been laid down by the committee, the committee preferring that each application for aid should be dealt with on its own merits. It appeared to the committee it would be almost impossible to deal with such applications otherwise, for, if a subsidy were given at all it could only be given to those who first endeavored to secure a supply of water in any particular area of country; once the existence of water beneath the surface were proved, it would not be necessary for the Government to subsidise any further efforts, in that portion of the country. The only general plan that could be adopted would be for the Government, as had been done in the other colonies, to purchase boring machines and to hire them out to settlers under certain conditions—which he thought would be a very desirable thing for our own Government to do. But, within the short time at the disposal of the committee, it had been impossible to arrive at any mature proposals on the subject, to lay before the House. The hon. baronet having referred to the success which had attended boring operations in the other colonies, where vast areas of country which were previously worthless had thus become a source of great wealth—a result which he saw no reason to doubt might accrue to this colony by the prosecution of similar undertakings—he said what they had to consider that evening was the special applications of the two pastoral associations who had taken up the greater portion of these Eucla plains, which were supposed to extend from the coast range as far as what was known as Giles's course and westward indefinitely,—it was not known how far. He had been given to understand that one of these companies, the Western Australian Pastoral Association, was composed of gentlemen who for the most part were well known in the other colonies—Sir George Wigram Allen, Mr. Mort, Mr. Buckland, and others, who held large pastoral estates in New South Wales

and Queensland. This association, he was told, had taken up their land in the Eucla district for no speculative purposes —by which he meant they had not taken it up with the object of selling it again to other parties, but with a *bonâ fide* intention of stocking it. The other company, which was represented by Mr. Wallis—and which he believed included Mr. Casey, Sir Julius Vogel, Sir Robert Herbert, Lord Carnarvon, and others,—had been simply formed, he believed, for speculative purposes, in order to make the most they could by re-selling the land. [Hon. J. FORRESTER: No, no.] He was informed that such was the case, and he believed that such was the case. That however, was of no consequence to us; it did not affect the question now under consideration. These two companies, then, proposed to bore for water, one in order to enable them to stock their runs, and the other in order, so far as he could make out, to enable them to effect a better sale and to get a higher price for their land; and the question for us was whether it was better in the interests of the colony we should help them to make an extensive portion of our territory valuable which for all these years had been of no value whatever on account of the non-existence of water. He had heard that some hon. member might be inclined to take this view of the question —that whether we gave this help or not, these companies would still undertake these boring operations, and that therefore it was of very little consequence whether we subsidised their efforts or not. He thought, however, that very few members could consistently take up that line of argument, for when it was set up the other day by the Government bench, in opposition to the proposed subsidies for certain steam services, the House declined to accept it as a valid reason for refusing to grant the subsidies asked for. And although it was probable if we did not offer these companies assistance they would still undertake these boring operations, it did not by any means necessarily follow that they would. It might be that they had taken up this land under the impression that there would be no great difficulty in discovering water there —they must have known there would be some difficulty, but they might have thought it would not be very great, and

that now, finding the difficulty was much greater than they had anticipated, and that at any rate it would involve a large expenditure of money, they might question whether it would be wise to continue to prosecute these operations, and to throw good money after bad. Or they might have come to the conclusion to see what help they could get from our Government, and to ascertain whether we have any confidence in this land ourselves, and if we showed that we had some faith in it by affording them this help, it might be the turning point in deciding whether they would undertake these operations or not. Some hon. members might be inclined to think it would be rather an advantage than otherwise, so far as the colony is concerned, if they do not proceed with the operations, and throw up the land,—for he was aware that the regulations under which the land was held were not viewed with favor by many hon. members. These regulations may possibly be more liberal than necessary, but that was not the question for us now. We framed them ourselves, and invited people to take up the land under them, and we ought to accept that as an accomplished fact, and deal with these people fairly, under conditions which we ourselves had imposed. Certainly none of those conditions included a promise that we would assist them in this way; but nearly every one of the other colonies in which similar operations had been undertaken had largely assisted those who first undertook them—very much more largely than was contemplated in the resolution prepared by the select committee and which would presently be submitted for the affirmation of the House; and he thought it was very desirable that, in these as in other matters having for their object the promotion of settlement and the enhancement of the value of our land, we should not take a back place. If we acted in that niggardly kind of spirit it would have the effect of discouraging capitalists from coming to our shores, which would be very much regretted. It was highly desirable in the interests of the colony that water should be found in this part of our territory, for at present the land was comparatively worthless; but, in the event of these operations proving successful, it was land which would be capable of carrying a large

amount of stock, and which would then add materially to the wealth of the colony. It would be seen on reference to the resolution that a certain area was defined within which it was proposed any assistance should be limited in respect of these boring operations, and he believed there were reasons why this was considered a desirable limitation,—though he was not himself wedded in the least to the boundaries of the prescribed area. It would also be seen on reference to the select committee's report that two members of the committee were opposed to the resolution as worded, without providing some safeguards as to the extent and value of the operations to be conducted. For his own part he thought the resolution which a majority of the committee recommended for the acceptance of the House was sufficiently explicit, and if these provisos were added it was a question whether they might not hamper the Government in their dealing with these associations. He thought we might safely leave these matters of detail to the Government. The hon. baronet concluded by moving the House into committee.

MR. BROWN was not at all sure it would be desirable that the House should resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider this question. Applications had been made by two firms, who held a very large quantity of land in the Eucla district, for assistance from this Government to enable them to procure water for their own purposes in that part of our colony; and although he thought it might be desirable—that, in fact, it was desirable—to ascertain whether or not there be an underground supply of water in that district, he at the same time considered it very questionable whether this Government should come forward and subsidise to a large extent persons who might endeavor to obtain water there for their own purposes. He thought it was questionable for this reason: in framing the land regulations for that district regard was had to the fact that it was known there would be a difficulty in procuring water there, and consequently the land regulations were made exceedingly liberal—he thought he might say more so than the land regulations applying to any other part of the colony, one of the conditions being that the lessees of land in the district referred

to had the right to purchase the land at half-a-crown an acre: and the applications now made had been made by lessees who held this right. It appeared they proposed to spend something like £3000 in endeavoring to procure water—where? On their own lands. And they proposed that the Government should subsidise them to the extent of £2 for every £1 which they expended for this purpose. The select committee recommended that help should be given, provided the grant-in-aid shall not exceed £2,000; so that, if this recommendation were adopted, these companies might secure a sum of £2,000 belonging to the people of this colony, and, if the companies were successful in procuring water, they could immediately purchase their land at half-a-crown an acre. Under these circumstances, he thought it was very questionable indeed whether that House should commit itself to such an undertaking. These two companies between them, he believed, held territory to the extent of something like 250 miles long by 150 miles broad; they held what was believed to be by far the richest portion of what was known as our Eucla territory, and undoubtedly it would be within the confines of their own areas that these boring operations would be conducted. The colony, it was true, held more land outside the boundaries of these companies' territory, and it was possible that if they succeeded in finding water on their own leases, it might prove advantageous to the colony in letting the remaining portion of the land,—but not to the extent of £2,000. He would be prepared to assent to the proposal to this extent, that the Government should subsidise these companies for the purpose of testing the question of the existence of water, to the extent of £1 for every £3 expended by the companies, conditionally that upon the discovery of a sufficient supply of water the Government subsidy should cease. What he objected to was that this subsidy should be continued indefinitely, while these associations were sinking well after well in different parts of their own territory, all of which, or any of which, they could afterwards purchase at half-a-crown an acre. The majority of the select committee, however, were of a different opinion, but he felt so strongly on the subject that, when

the proper time came, it was his intention to move an amendment, to the effect that it was not at all desirable to accede to the requests made by these companies, on the conditions recommended by the majority of the committee.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. VENN moved the following resolution, recommended by the select committee: "That should the Western Australian Pastoral, and the Eucla Land and Pastoral Associations undertake boring operations on the plains of the Eucla District, with the object of testing the question of the existence of a water supply for pastoral purposes—such operations being confined to an area bounded on the South by a line running parallel with and at a distance of 10 miles from the coast range, on the North by a line running parallel with and at a distance of 100 miles from that range, on the East by the South Australian boundary, and on the West by the 124th parallel of East longitude—the Government should supplement the endeavor of the Associations to the extent of one-third of the expenditure directly incurred for the purpose of such test. Provided the grant-in-aid shall not exceed the sum of £2,000, and that all disbursements connected with the work be verified and supported by voucher." The hon. member said he thought, after what had fallen from the hon. member for Plantagenet, it would require very few words from him to commend the resolution, which had been agreed to by a majority of the select committee, to the acceptance of hon. members generally. He thought that, on the face of it, it was a reasonable thing to do. The colony had already received some thousands of pounds in the shape of land revenue from this district, and as yet no money whatever had been expended in it out of public funds. This was the first time the House had ever been asked to do anything towards the development of this territory, and on that ground alone he thought they would be perfectly justified in agreeing to the present proposal. No doubt the land regulations in this district were framed with a full knowledge that there would be consider-

able difficulty in obtaining water, and were therefore framed on a liberal scale; but, after all, they were not much more liberal than were the regulations of the North District in times gone by, and he felt sure that the little help asked for by these companies to do that which could not fail to benefit the district, would commend itself to the sound judgment and good feeling of the House.

MR. MARMION said he agreed to some extent with what had fallen from the hon. member for the Gascoyne, and, in the main, with what had fallen from the hon. member for Plantagenet. He quite admitted that it was an argument which might be used against the policy of granting pecuniary aid to these two companies, the fact that they held so large an extent of territory, and that they themselves perhaps in a greater degree than the State would benefit by the expenditure of this money, should it be attended with the desired result. At the same time he would remind hon. members that it was not a matter of very great importance as to whether the land was held by one or two individuals or by fifty or sixty, for we might fairly assume that if these two associations were successful they would dispose of portions of the land to others, and that, although the associations might reap advantages partially at the expense of the colony, the colony itself must also derive advantages in a corresponding degree. Every man who purchased portions of this territory at a higher price than the colony originally obtained for it would do so with the idea of becoming a *bona fide* settler; and it should not be forgotten that although the very liberal land regulations had been in force for many years, the territory they applied to had remained a blank on the map until very recently. Notwithstanding the liberality of the conditions upon which the land might be taken up, very few people had ever had the courage to tackle it, for it was well known that without water it was useless, and that anyone who endeavored to obtain water would have to expend large sums in searching for it. Under these circumstances he thought we might fairly consider this application on its merits, and he believed most hon. members would be prepared to do so, in view of the proviso which he would now move

to add to the resolution, which was to the following effect: "Provided also, that the discovery in any well of a supply of water suitable for the consumption of stock, and yielding about ten thousand gallons per diem, shall be considered to have set the question at rest; and that, after such discovery, no claim to a subsidy in aid of wells subsequently sunk shall be entertained. Provided further, that an officer be appointed to represent the Government and report during the progress of the operations." If these words were added to the resolution the applicants would be in this position: supposing it only cost £1000. to ascertain that water existed, this colony would only have to pay one third of that amount,—for, once the existence of water were ascertained, the subsidy would cease, even although it only cost £500 to test the question. As had been already said, this territory without water was valueless either to us or to anyone else,—of as little value (as was stated by a letter which the select committee had before them) as so much area in the Australian Bight—and it was just a question whether it was likely to continue so, or whether by the expenditure of a little money it might not become a valuable portion of the public estate. One of the provisos, it would be observed, was that the Government should appoint some trustworthy and competent person to watch the operations of the companies, and to report to the Government. In this way the colony would be placed in possession of reliable information as to the character of the country, and of the substrata exposed by the boring operations,—information which could not fail to be of some value.

MR. CROWTHER thought these companies, before they asked the colony to assist them, ought to give us some proof of their *bona fides*. He had yet to learn that they had commenced any operations on their own account, or had given any substantial proof that their object was anything but a purely speculative one. We might rest pretty well assured that as soon as water is discovered, they would lose no time in disposing of their land to their own profit and advantage—and no doubt it would prove a very profitable speculation too. He should like

to see the companies expending a little of their own money first, before asking for assistance out of public funds, and he should also like to see some provision made, in the event of these operations proving successful, that the colony itself should derive some direct benefit from the expenditure of its funds. The hon. member for Fremantle said it would be an advantage to the colony if the companies resold their land at a higher price than they gave for it. For his own part he did not see the matter in the same gay and festive light as the hon. member did. He looked at the matter in this way: the Government disposed of the land to these lessees at a very low price, knowing that before the land could be of much value to them they would have to spend some money in searching for water, but now it was proposed that the Government should assist them to find the water—to find what would enhance the value of the land tenfold—and what then? The lessees would pocket the difference. That was all. It was only that very day he saw a newspaper paragraph stating that one enterprising gentleman had disposed of his interest in some land in the district at a premium of £1800. He was opposed to expenditure of public funds for the purposes of private gain.

MR. BROWN said he was informed that some years ago, when the Hampton plains were regarded as being a likely territory for pastoral purposes, a number of gentlemen interviewed the Government of the day with a view of obtaining some assistance in their endeavors to procure water in that part of the colony. The proposals then put forward were proposals which he thought might very fairly be put forward on behalf of the associations whose application was now under consideration. What was proposed by the gentlemen referred to was this: that in the event of their undertaking a search for water, and the search proving successful, they would not ask the Government to give them anything; but, in the event of their labors and the expenditure of their capital proving futile, that the Government should pay one half the cost they had been put to in conducting their operations. He considered that a reasonable offer, and if some such proposal were put forward on

behalf of these companies there could not be so much said against it.

MR. S. H. PARKER would like to know, if this resolution were adopted, where the money for the proposed subsidy was to come from. No provision whatever was made on the Estimates to meet such an expenditure, and, that being the case, the committee of advice under the Audit Act could not sanction the payment of a subsidy for which no appropriation whatever had been made by the Legislature. From what he had seen of the way in which the Government had worked the Audit Act this year, he felt sure they would not expend any money in this direction without the vote of the Legislature. He thought that in no instance since this year commenced had the Government committed any breach of the Act—that was to say, no vote had been exceeded without consulting the committee and obtaining their authority for the overdraft. But they could not sanction such an expenditure as this for which no vote at all had been taken; therefore it appeared to him, apart from any question of policy, it would be useless to pass this resolution, as the Government would be helpless in the matter. [The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No, no.] The hon. gentleman said “no, no;” if the hon. gentleman could point out where the money was to come from, there would be an end to his argument, and he would say no more.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, before he ventured upon an explanation upon that point, he wished to say one or two words on the main subject. Hon. members were aware that for years past the settlers who occupied the coast fronting the table lands of Eucla had endeavored to open up the back country, by seeking to discover water, but without success, and they had consequently to confine their flocks during the dry seasons to the lower levels. Owing, however, to the fact that the attention of outside capitalists had of late been attracted to this portion of our territory, very large areas of land had been taken up there, and we had already derived many thousands of pounds of revenue from the district without contributing anything in return. But hon. members would agree with him that unless water be discovered in this

back country, this source of revenue will very soon fail us, and his hon. colleague on the right (the Commissioner of Crown Lands) would find that the land revenue next year would be deficient of a considerable amount now derived from runs in this part of the colony. He thought it was only reasonable that the Crown lessees of the district should have some assistance, and it appeared to him that the assistance contemplated in the resolution before the committee was nothing unreasonable. The request appeared a moderate request, as embodied in the resolution. With regard to the provisos which it was proposed to add to it, it appeared to him that the appointment of a Government officer to watch these boring operations on the spot, during the whole time these operations lasted—if the officer was to be one whose opinion would be of any real value—would of itself form a very large item out of the whole vote; therefore he could not think that condition was a desirable one. He thought the exigencies of the case would be met by the appointment of an officer to inspect the operations, on behalf of the Government, before the subsidy is paid. As to transgressing the provisions of the Audit Act, he hoped, so long as he had a voice in the matter, he should continue in the course which the hon. member for Perth allowed had been followed by the Government since the beginning of the year, and he believed, so far as this subsidy was concerned—should the anticipations of these companies be realised, he understood the money would not be required until at any rate that House met again. Therefore, if this resolution was now accepted by the Council and adopted, the Government would be warranted in coming to the House next session and asking it to appropriate the necessary sum on the supplementary or on the annual Estimates, as the case might be, to meet these claims. The companies might in the meantime be given to understand that no claim would be paid until the money had been legally appropriated.

MR. S. H. PARKER pointed out that the Audit Act not only contemplated that no money shall be paid without authority but also that no liability shall be incurred; therefore he still thought if this resolution were adopted it must

remain a dead letter, or, on the other hand, the provisions of the Audit Act must be violated. If the Government promised any pecuniary assistance to the lessees they would be contravening the provisions of the statute. As to the policy of granting a subsidy for the purpose of encouraging these water-boring operations, no doubt it would be a great loss to the revenue if these lessees were to abandon their land; but, seeing that at present land in the district was selling at a high premium, there did not appear to be any immediate prospect of these leases being surrendered. Looking also at the fact that we were likely to have Sir Julius Vogel's railway running right through this territory, it appeared to him, whether water is discovered there or not, the value of the land was not likely to decrease, nor was it probable that these leaseholders who had obtained the land on such liberal terms would be inclined to give it up. Even if they did, if they gave it up to-morrow, there were numbers of other people who would now be prepared to take up the land, and take it at an increased rental. Not only did the present lessees hold the land at a very small rent, one of them at any rate (Mr. Wallis) had a pre-emptive right over the whole of it, for 14 years. He failed to see what claim these tenants of the Crown had upon the Government to assist them in finding water. If a private landlord let a row of houses to a tenant for a term of years at an unusually low rent because there was no water in the vicinity, and the tenant, with a view to sub-let the premises at a higher rental, sank some wells in the immediate neighborhood, surely he would not expect the landlord to assist him in sinking wells, in order that he (the tenant) might obtain a higher rent for the houses than he was paying the landlord. He admitted there was a difference between a private person and the State as a landlord, inasmuch as the great object of the State was to promote the settlement of the country, and no doubt it would be a very desirable thing indeed if this district were opened up for settlement, but it would not be denied for a moment that the object of these lessees was to benefit themselves, at the expense of the State.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he was not a member of the select committee to which the question had been referred, nor had he given it a very great deal of attention, but having travelled over this country some years ago he was in a position to give an opinion as to the capabilities of this portion of our territory. He must say he did not agree at all with the hon. member for the Gascoyne and other hon. members in the position they had taken up with reference to these applications. He thought their views were too narrow altogether, namely, that because these lessees would themselves derive some benefit from these operations, as well as the State, we should therefore refuse them this assistance. He was inclined to take a more liberal view than that. If water should be discovered in the district the value of the whole territory would be increased, and country which was now lying waste would soon become covered with flocks and herds, with the result that our exports would be largely increased and the revenue correspondingly augmented. The argument put forward by some hon. members would lead one to suppose that because the land had been disposed of at a low rental it would run away, and that we should derive no further benefit from it. He thought it would be a very good thing indeed, not only for these lessees but also for the colony, if a few more men made their fortunes in it. It would give the colony a better name, as a field for investment. Our great object ought to be to get our land settled upon and made productive, apart from the fact that in attaining this end we might at the same time benefit a few individuals. The search for water in this part of our territory would undoubtedly entail a very large expenditure of money, and his own opinion was that we should not discover artesian water at all, although he thought they might very likely find water by sinking for it to considerable depths. He knew that towards Fowler's Bay and in that neighborhood, very deep wells had been sunk and a permanent supply of water had been obtained, and he did not despair of a similar result being obtained in the Eucla district, by the same means, though he had little or no faith in our securing artesian supplies.

MR. BROWN complimented the Commissioner of Crown Lands upon his broad and liberal views. He hoped the hon. gentleman would always entertain views of the same breadth and liberality. He (Mr. Brown) had, in the past, stood almost alone in that House in advocating the liberalising of our land regulations to the extent of even giving land away, with the object of encouraging *bona fide* settlement. But he felt he must now take a back seat. The hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands regarded such views as he had enunciated as narrow-minded views. The hon. gentleman, not satisfied with letting people pick out the eyes of these lands at half-a-crown an acre, would also assist them out of public funds to increase the value of their land, for their own benefit. He must admit that, regarded side by side with the hon. gentleman's broad and liberal views, his own views must appear narrow-minded, and he again complimented the hon. gentleman upon the extreme liberality of his sentiments in the case of these Eucla lessees—sentiments which he hoped would not be less liberal in other directions.

MR. BURT said that after what he had listened to in the course of this debate and of other debates upon the subject of our land regulations, he had no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that the State was the most unreasonable and narrow-minded landlord that could possibly be met with. Here were lands which had been open for selection for ever so many years upon terms which no one could be found to take up, and now that a few people had the courage to come forward to test the capabilities of the country, we put up our backs at once, and wish them out of the colony. For the last half a century we had been inviting people to come and settle upon our lands, and yet the moment a few enterprising gentlemen responded to our invitation, we shut the door in their faces and run away. He did not understand such a policy. He thought it was not only a suicidal policy, but also a policy which rendered us ridiculous in the eyes of the world. We did the same thing with lands in other parts of the colony—lands adjoining the Eastern Railway line. The moment these lands begin to assume some little

value, we incontinently shut them up. We wouldn't sell because people wanted to buy. These Eucla lands had remained unutilised ever since they had been thrown open for selection: they were as unproductive this day as they were when the colony was founded, and now there was an opportunity of having them opened up for settlement and converted into fertile plains, we threw every obstacle in the way. The moment the State barge showed signs of making headway, the order went forth to "back-water." How was it no one had ever drawn attention to the extreme liberality of these Eucla land regulations before? No one considered there was anything very liberal about them until people began to come in, and applied to take them up. Now, however, when persons were prepared to accept this land upon the terms we had offered it for the last ten years we looked upon them with distrust as swindlers. He believed there was plenty more land in the district, millions of acres, which any hon. member of that House might become the fortunate, or unfortunate, proprietor of tomorrow if he liked. These associations asked for what? For assistance in finding that which if discovered would render the district infinitely more valuable to the colony—more valuable to the lessees also, but correspondingly more valuable to the State. He believed they had already expended a large sum of money in sinking for water, and he knew they were at present engaged in that operation; and, in order to stimulate them to still further exertions, the Government was asked to give them a little assistance, in view of the fact that the Government, like themselves, would benefit, if their efforts were attended with success. He must say it seemed to him a very reasonable request, especially if the provisos proposed to be added to the resolution were adopted.

The question was then put and passed that the words proposed to be added (the amendment by Mr. MARMION) stand part of the resolution.

The resolution as amended was then put, whereupon,

MR. BROWN moved his amendment—
"That this Council having considered
"applications made by the Western Aus-
"tralian Pastoral and Eucla Land and

"Pastoral Associations for grants in aid of Water-boring operations in the Eucla District, as also the policy generally of encouraging such undertakings by Government subsidies, is of opinion—

"1. That, in the interests of the colony, it is highly desirable that the State should aid and encourage *bonâ fide* efforts to secure supplies of artesian water in arid parts of the territory, but, at the same time, deems that it would be inconvenient at present to determine any definite lines upon which such aid and encouragement should be given, preferring that each application for assistance in carrying out such undertakings should be dealt with on its individual merits; 2. That it is not desirable to accede to the requests of the Pastoral Associations above referred to."

A division being challenged, the committee divided upon the amendment with the following result—

Ayes	11
Noes	7

Majority for	...	4
Ayes.	Noes.	

Mr. Carey	Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Crowther	Hon. A. P. Hensman
Mr. Glyde	Hon. J. H. Thomas
Mr. Higham	Hon. J. Forrest
Sir L. S. Leake	Mr. Burt
Mr. McRae	Mr. Marmion
Mr. S. S. Parker	Mr. Venn (Teller.)
Mr. S. H. Parker	
Mr. Randell	
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Brown (Teller.)	

The amendment submitted by Mr. BROWN was therefore adopted.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1884.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said it was merely an echo of the proceedings of the House when in committee of supply, and that therefore it was unnecessary for him to do more than formally move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the Bill be now considered in committee of the whole.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1.—Appropriation of £245,486 0s. 3d.:

MR. S. H. PARKER, referring to the item under the head of "Miscellaneous," said this vote embraced a great many different items, and what he should like to impress upon the mind of the Colonial Secretary was this—that the Government were not at liberty, in the event of one of these votes not being required, to appropriate the money to some other purpose for which the vote asked for might not prove sufficient.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): I am perfectly well aware of that.

MR. S. H. PARKER: I am very glad to hear the hon. gentleman say so. It has been done in the past. The Government, finding they had not expended the whole of some particular vote, carried the unexpended balance to the credit of another vote, which had been exceeded. I am very glad to find that this practice in not to be resorted to in the future.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clause 2—Treasurer to pay on Governor's warrant:

Agreed to.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Standing Orders were suspended, with a view that the House, at its rising, adjourn until half-past two o'clock, p.m., next day.

IMMIGRATION BOARD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Before we adjourn, I think it would be well if hon. members were to suggest—I say suggest, for we cannot at this moment nominate, as the Act has not yet become law—the names of the two members of the House who it is desired should occupy seats on the Board of Immigration. The fact of the Bill having been assented to by the Governor will, I presume, be notified to the House by message to-morrow, before His Excellency comes down to prorogue the Council; and if hon. members will to-night select those two from amongst

themselves whom they wish to nominate, we can at very short notice to-morrow complete the formal nomination. I merely mention the subject now because I should regret if, through any informality, this nomination should hereafter be found to be illegal. I do not know whether it is the wish of the House to proceed by ballot to the election of these two members: I apprehend everybody has fixed upon some one for the position, and I do not think the occupants of the Government bench need take any part in the nomination.

MR. CAREY: I would suggest the names of Mr. Brown and Mr. Marmion.

MR. GRANT: I do not think a more judicious selection could be made.

MR. BROWN: I can only say that should hon. members do me the honor of nominating me to a seat on the board, I shall be most happy to discharge the duties of the position to the best of my ability. I hope, however, the members of the Government will not refrain from voting in this matter. I know no distinction, I recognise no distinction, between Government members and any other members in this House.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Saturday, 8th September, 1883.

Tramway between Roebourne and Cossack—Message (No. 39): Vetoing Imported Labor Registry Bill—Message (No. 40): Totalisator Bill—Message (No. 41): Assenting to Bills—Immigration Board—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at half-past two o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

TRAMWAY BETWEEN ROEBOURNE AND COSSACK.

MR. SHENTON, without notice, expressed a hope that, if an opportunity offered during the recess for having a survey made of a line of country between Roebourne and Cossack, for the purpose of ascertaining the probable cost of a steam tramway, and, if the Government had any means at their disposal, they would have the survey made. He believed that somebody would have to be employed in making a survey of the line to the Irwin, in accordance with the resolution of the House, and it might be possible to send this officer to the Northern District to make this other survey. He understood from the Commissioner of Railways it would only cost a small sum to make a survey of the country between Cossack and Roebourne, for the purposes of a tramway.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): I will draw His Excellency's attention to the question raised, and if His Excellency approves of the proposal, and if arrangements can be made, I trust that what the hon. member wishes may be given effect to.

MESSAGE (No. 39): VETOING IMPORTED LABOR REGISTRY BILL.

MR. SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has carefully considered the Bill intituled:—

"An Act to consolidate and amend the Law providing for the Registration of certain persons who shall be imported into Western Australia or employed in any manner within the Territorial Dominion thereof."

"This Bill, the short title of which is 'The Imported Labor Registry Act, 1883,' purports to repeal and amend 'The Imported Labor Registry Act, 1882;' and the Governor understands that a chief object of the Bill is the removal of a difficulty connected with the form of contract prescribed by the 11th clause of the existing Act.

"In removing this difficulty, however, the Bill unguards the interests of the laborer, in matters as to which the