

Dr. Scott, as well as to the paying and non-paying patients.

MR. HENSMAN thought that the Government should take immediate steps to carry out the proposed improvements.

The item £908 13s. 7d. for the Medical Department was then put and passed.

MR. A. FORREST moved that progress be reported and leave asked to sit again.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

"HANSARD" REPORTS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that owing to the indisposition of the *Hansard* reporter the House was without an official reporter. The Speaker had drawn his attention to the matter, who had advised that the House should take immediate steps to make arrangements for reporting the proceedings of the Council. Hon. members should consider whether steps should be taken for the carrying on of the duty.

THE SPEAKER said that when he became aware of the absence of the *Hansard* reporter, through illness, he had seen the proprietor of the *West Australian*, who had kindly agreed to allow one of his reporters to carry on the duty, on condition that the reporter should be paid at the same rate as the *Hansard* reporter.

MR. SHOLL said he thought the House would be in favor of making some arrangement in the matter.

MR. RICHARDSON suggested that a second *Hansard* reporter should be appointed, in order to carry on the work when the *Hansard* reporter was unable to do so.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) moved that the Hon. the Speaker, the Colonial Secretary, Sir T. C. Campbell, and Mr. Parker should be appointed a committee to make arrangements for the reporting of the proceedings of the House.

The motion was adopted.

The House adjourned at five o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 20th July, 1887.

Pensions of Enrolled Guard—Life Policy Protection Bill: Report of Select Committee—Bunbury Railway Survey—Alteration of Council Chamber—Message (No. 16): Responsible Government and a Loan Bill—Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Acts Amendment Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

THE ENROLLED GUARD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) laid on the table correspondence with reference to the granting of pensions to the men who composed the lately disbanded Enrolled Guard, and moved that it be printed.

Agreed to.

LIFE POLICY PROTECTION BILL.

THE COMMISSIONER OF TITLES (Mr. J. C. H. James) brought up the report of the Select Committee on this bill, and the report was ordered to be printed.

THE BUNBURY RAILWAY SURVEY.

MR. VENN asked the Commissioner of Railways to lay upon the table a return showing the cost of survey of the Bunbury Railway, from the first survey made by Mr. May to the final survey made by the Works Department. There was a return bearing on this subject in the report of the Commissioner of Railways, but he hoped the return given that night would contain fuller information.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) laid the return asked for on the table.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MR. VENN, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to place a sufficient sum of money on the Estimates to defray cost of alterations to the Council Chamber, for convenience of the public, and to provide a reading room for members of the Council. The public, he said, who came to listen to the debates of the House, were placed on

very inconvenient seats, calculated to bring on curvature of the spine. The House should see that the public were made more comfortable, for it certainly was a good thing that they should come to listen to the debates of the House. The accommodation too, for the ladies, was very unsuitable, and they at least might be provided with chairs, and the back seats raised a little more. Then there was a great need for a private reading room for members of Council. At the present time, members had to make the Council chamber their reading room, and this was a very uncomfortable place for such a purpose. He thought the Government might provide the House with a small reading room at the back portion of the present building. He was not aware what it would cost to carry out these improvements, but perhaps the Director of Works could give them an estimate, and he hoped members would be unanimous in passing the vote for the sum necessary.

MR. RANDELL seconded the motion. He was quite at one, he said, with the hon. member for Wellington on this matter. If the mover's ideas were carried out, the increased comfort obtained would be worth all the money to be expended on the alterations. He did not know so much about the necessity for a reading room, but his attention had been drawn to the inconvenience and discomfort which members had to endure in studying sessional papers, as they did not like to go over and take the seats of honorable members on that side of the House.

MR. VENN remarked that some better provision might also be made for the accommodation of distinguished visitors or gentlemen attending under an order from the Speaker.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that as the colony was on the eve of a change in the Constitution, in which event, it was probable, very different accommodation would be required in that House and perhaps also in another, it appeared to him that it was rather premature to ask for the increased accommodation. He hardly knew how that increased accommodation could be given properly. Even the mere fact of having two additional members in the House had caused some little difficulty in seating them to their

comfort. The public, he admitted, ought to be carefully looked after. He thought, however, that it would be premature to expend money in this way, and, looking at it in that light, it was hardly worth the while to attempt to make an estimate of the cost.

MR. HENSMAN said he was glad to find that the Director of Public Works recognised that there was soon to be made a change in the Constitution. He trusted that in other matters besides that introduced by Mr. Venn, the Director of Works would recognise the same principle. He agreed with the remarks of the mover and seconder of the motion, but there was one remark made by Mr. Randell to which he objected. He said that though cold and uncomfortable hon. members did not like to cross over and take seats on his side of the House. He could assure Mr. Randell that hon. members were as cosy and comfortable on that side of the House as on the other—although they had not a fire behind them. However, as changes would probably be necessary at a later stage in the House—and perhaps they might need only one House, and perhaps two—he thought, with the Director of Works, that the member for Wellington would do well if he allowed the motion to stand over for the present.

MR. VENN, in reply, said that though there might be made a change in the Constitution, it would certainly, under the most favorable circumstances, be two years before any improvements could be made in the Chamber. The first session under the new Constitution, if they delayed the matter, would see the voting of the money for improvements, and it would be the second session at the earliest before they could get the benefit of it. As far as he could see, he did not think that under a change of Constitution they need go into any very extensive expenditure as regards a Council Chamber, as there were more desirable works to be undertaken before they could enter upon the embellishments of the city of Perth by the erection of such structures as Houses of Parliament. He took it that that Council chamber would suit all practical purposes. It compared favorably, if not more than favorably, with the New South Wales chamber. He had been in the New South Wales chamber

very recently and could speak to its being by no means better than their own. He thought the chamber would serve very well as a House of Assembly for some time to come. They should consider that question irrespective of any change of Constitution.

The motion was negatived, on the voices.

MESSAGE (No. 16): RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT AND A LOAN BILL.

THE SPEAKER reported the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that it appears to him there would be a certain difficulty in considering the Estimates for the year 1888, until the Government are prepared to make a definite statement to Your Honorable House on the subject of a further Loan for Public Works.

"2. Such a statement cannot be made, until it is known whether the further Loan can be secured on the revenues of the whole colony, or, in other words, until the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the Resolution of Your Honorable House against the separation of the colony, in the event of Responsible Government, has been received.

"3. This reply may be expected by November next, when the Government hope to be in a position to proceed with the consideration of the details of the necessary Bill for the change of the Constitution, the general election, which should obviously take place before the final passing of a measure of such great moment to the colony, being deferred to a later date.

"4. As it would be convenient that the Estimates for 1888 and the question of a further Loan should be discussed together; as a Loan Bill cannot, for the reason previously stated, be brought forward during the present session; and as Your Honorable House would probably, in any case, be called together again before the end of the year, the Governor proposes to defer the consideration of the Estimates for 1888 until a second session, an arrangement which offers this further advantage,

"namely, that the Government and Your Honorable House will be able to settle the finances of next year in closer, and therefore more accurate, view of the period to which they relate.

"5. The Supplementary Estimates for the current year cannot be delayed; but there would be no objection to a special note being appended to any items which the Council are of opinion may hereafter be recouped from loan funds.

"6. This and the other necessary work having been completed, the Council will accordingly be prorogued, for the purpose of re-assembling later in the year.

"Government House, Perth, 20th July, 1887."

THE PEARL SHELL FISHERY REGULATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

The House went into committee on the bill to amend the Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Acts, 1873 and 1875.

Clause 1.—Short title:

Agreed to.

Clause 2.—"That notwithstanding the repeal by the Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Act, 1875, of the third section of the Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Act, 1873, the following words in the said repealed section, namely:—'From and after the passing of this Act no master of any ship or vessel or any other person shall employ any aboriginal native of the said colony in the pearl shell fishery except he shall have entered into a separate written agreement with him and had the same endorsed as hereinafter mentioned,' shall be and are hereby revived and re-enacted, and shall be read and construed together with the unrepealed parts of the said Act of 1873, save only that the words 'after the passing of this Act,' in the said section, shall relate to the passing of this Act."

MR. SHOLL complained of the ambiguity of the whole clause, and asked that it be explained.

MR. HENSMAN submitted that the wording of the clause was too technical, and that it could be understood only by a lawyer. He had mastered the meaning of the clause after some study, and thought that its object was a good one. It would be much better, however, if the

laws relating to the treatment of the aborigines were put into a plainly worded consolidating Act, instead of this confusing amendment bill being brought forward. He would suggest to the Government the advisability of taking this course, although he was ready to admit that the object of the amending bill was a good one.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) replied that his experience was that a consolidating Act was simply a new starting place for a new series of amending bills. There was no finality in legislation, and never would be so long as human nature remained unchanged. An industry that, like pearling, had remained undisturbed by new Acts of Parliament for twelve years was in a happy position.

MR. RICHARDSON said he remembered the time when the natives engaged in pearling were the happiest members of the community. Owing, however, to the interference of laws—or rather, owing to the way in which the laws, good in themselves, were administered, the natives were becoming troublesome, a nuisance to their masters, and it was not unlikely that the pearlers would endeavor to dispense with their help and send them back to the miseries of the bush. It was now impossible to preserve discipline amongst the native pearlers, and the position of affairs was perfectly exasperating to the masters. From being useful and profitable servants, the natives had become troublesome and their services would not be retained if the employers could avoid it. If the carrying out of laws relating to natives was entrusted to men of discretion, it would be much better for all concerned.

The clause was then put and passed.

Clause 3.—“That the fifth, sixth, eighth, and ninth sections of the said Act of 1873, and the proviso in the fifth section of the said Act of 1875, shall be read and construed as if, in lieu of the persons therein mentioned, there had been named the Inspector of Pearl Fisheries, a Resident Magistrate, and a Protector of Aborigines; and the Form of Endorsement given in Schedule B of the said Act of 1873 shall be amended by the substitution of

“Inspector of Pearl Fisheries,
“Resident Magistrate,
“Protector of Aborigines,

“in lieu of

“Justice of the Peace,

“Police Constable,

“One of the persons appointed to

“ensure the carrying out of

““The Pearl Shell Fishery

““Regulation Act, 1873.”

MR. RICHARDSON moved an amendment—that the words “Justice of the Peace” be inserted after the words “Protector of Aborigines,” so that justices might still be included amongst those who may endorse agreements. He did not know what justices of the peace had done to cause their exclusion from the bill, but if a magistrate was not capable of witnessing an agreement between a blackfellow and his master he was not capable of dispensing justice.

MR. MARMION supported the argument that the Government should have brought in a consolidating, rather than an amending, bill.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said he would adopt the amendment of Mr. Richardson, but would put it in a different form. The neater way of making the amendment was by dropping the words “Justice of the Peace” out of the amending bill, and so leaving them in the Acts of 1873 and 1875.

MR. RANDELL at this point moved to report progress.

Progress was then reported and leave given to sit again on Friday.

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