

The new clause was then put and negatived.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that, carrying out the suggestion of the hon. member for Wellington, he would move that the following new clause be added, to stand as Clause 4: "That any fines levied and paid under the provisions of this Act shall not become and form part of the General Revenue of the colony, but shall be paid to the Railway Servants Benefit Society." This was a society which had been got up by the railway employes themselves—a sick and benefit fund.

Clause put and passed.

Schedule of servants to whom the Act applied:

MR. PARKER said that personally he should like to see "station-masters" struck out from the list. He thought they occupied a different position to the other persons mentioned in the schedule.

MR. A. FORREST thought that "draughtsmen" ought to be excluded.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said, as to station-masters, they could not strike out a class which it was so necessary the bill should apply to as station-masters, who by their negligence or misconduct might cause more destruction to property and danger to life and limb than any other class. A station-master guilty of misconduct ought to be the very first man to be summarily dealt with. As to draughtsmen, these men were employed in the railway shops, and were not the hon. member's friends in the Survey Department.

Schedule agreed to.

Preamble and Title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 18th July, 1887.

Petition from Boat-builders, Perth and Fremantle—Colonial Hospital: As to recommendations of select committee—Amount expended on foundation of new Government Offices, Perth—Rules and Regulations as to Travelling Expenses of Officials—Particulars of the claims of John Egan (Egan v. Phillips) against the Government—Reduction of Telegraph charges between Pinjarrah and Mandurah—Vote for prospecting country East of Newcastle—Utilisation of Guano Deposits—Report of Mr. Spencer on accounts at Wyndham—Excess Bill, 1886: Progress report of select committee—Supplementary Estimates, 1887: in committee—Survey of Railway from Geraldton to Mullewa—Mail service between Northampton and Nookawarra—Copyright Register Bill: third reading—Railway Servants Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PETITION FROM BOAT-BUILDERS, PERTH AND FREMANTLE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) laid upon the table a petition from the boat-builders of Perth and Fremantle for an increase of the Customs Tariff on imported boats.

COLONIAL HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

MR. RANDELL, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether any, and if so, what steps had been taken by the Government to carry into effect the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Colonial Hospital, conveyed to His Excellency the Governor by address of that House on the 26th of August last. Also, as to whether any increased demand had been made since that date upon the accommodation the hospital affords.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) replied: The address referred to has not been lost sight of. Plans and estimates of additions to the Hospital Buildings have been prepared, and the following expenditure will be proposed if possible on the Estimates for 1888:—

Operating theatre, with adjoining wards and nurses' rooms	£1000
Furniture and fittings	60
Two additional nurses	60
Rations for do.	50
	£1170

The demand upon the hospital accommodation remains about the same as at the date of the address.

EXPENDITURE UPON FOUNDATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works what amount would have been expended on the foundations of the new Government Offices, when the present contract is completed?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied as follows:—The estimated cost of the whole of the foundation walls of basement, for which a schedule-price contract has been given, is £3,825 7s. A portion of these foundation walls of basement (that against the Survey and Land Titles Offices) will not be executed under this contract, as the occupation of some rooms would be disturbed before other accommodation is provided. £3,500 will be the amount expended on the foundations of the new Government Offices when the present contract is completed.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES.

MR. RANDELL asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House the Rules and Regulations affecting the travelling expenses and allowances of officials and the scale of payment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) laid on the table the regulations asked for, showing the scale of payment to be allowed as travelling expenses.

THE CASE OF EGAN v. THE GOVERNMENT.

MR. HENSMAN, in accordance with notice, asked the following questions standing in his name:

(1.) Whether one John Egan did not recently make a claim against the Government for compensation for injuries sustained by him, by reason of the negligent driving of the Albany mail coach?

(2.) Whether the claim of the petitioner was not referred by the Government to the Supreme Court for trial?

(3.) Whether the petitioner did not obtain a verdict for £300 damages, before Mr. Justice Stone and a jury?

(4.) Whether the Full Court, after argument, did not order judgment for that amount, with costs, to be entered for the petitioner?

(5.) Whether the Counsel for the Government did not apply to the Chief Justice for a stay of execution, in order that he might consider whether the Government should apply to the Privy Council for leave to appeal from the judgment, and whether the Chief Justice did not inform him that he could not, nor would if he could, stay execution?

(6.) Whether the Solicitor for the petitioner has not applied to the Government for payment of the amount of the judgment and costs, and whether the Government has not declined to pay?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) replied: The first five questions of the honorable and learned member I may answer in the affirmative. With regard to the sixth, the state of the matter is as follows, namely, that under the procedure laid down by law payment of the damages and costs obtained against the Government in this case cannot be made except upon the advice of the Executive Council, who have, after careful consideration, withheld such advice, pending the determination of the question of an application to the Privy Council for leave to appeal. The Solicitor to the Plaintiff has been informed to this effect. As the papers were sent to the Secretary of State by the mail before last, and as a telegram was requested so soon as the opinion of the law officers had been obtained, the delay will not be very great. The point involved is one of great importance.

REDUCTION OF TELEGRAPH CHARGES BETWEEN PINJARRAH AND MANDURAH.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to order the charges for telegraphic messages from Pinjarrah to Mandurah, and *vice versa*, to be reduced from one shilling to sixpence for ten words. The present charge for telegraphic messages between Perth and Fremantle was only sixpence, and as the distance between Pinjarrah and Mandurah was less than the distance between Perth and Fremantle, he failed to see why a shilling should be charged in one case and only sixpence in the other. The reduction, he was sure, would cause a

considerable increase in the number of messages sent, and the revenue would not suffer.

The motion was negatived on the voices.

VOTE FOR GOLD-PROSPECTING, EASTWARD OF NEWCASTLE.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to place on the Supplementary Estimates for 1887 a sum not exceeding £300 to provide the necessary expenses of a prospecting party to examine the reported gold-bearing country to the eastward of Newcastle. The report that had been received from Mr. Nicolay gave great encouragement to the hope that the country to which he referred was auriferous. It had never been visited by a scientist, and the sooner it was inspected for gold and other minerals the better. He was informed that such an expedition should start at once, as it would be impossible to travel during the summer, owing to the lack of water.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that on the death of Mr. Hardman, the Government had asked the Colonial Office to appoint some gentleman from the Geological Survey Department to the post of Geologist for this colony. He did not know whether the appointment had yet been made, but as soon as the Geologist arrived, he could make a visit to the district eastward of Newcastle. Under the circumstances he thought it would be as well to wait, perhaps, before organising an expedition. His hon. colleague the Director of Public Works could no doubt give some practical assistance, should it be decided upon taking action at once in the matter.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that from the character of the country where the gold was found recently, it was possible that metals more valuable even than gold might be found there. If an expedition were organised, he should be prepared to lend a cart and horses and a tent, and to give any other practical assistance in his power, so as to enable the party to start at once, and take advantage of the present rainy season.

MR. A. FORREST said he would support the motion, because, unless the expedition started at once, it would be useless. The country referred to was very dry, and unless advantage was taken of the rainy season no good would result. Pack horses should be used,—a cart being no good, inasmuch as the members of the expedition would have to make their own road.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the hon. member was not speaking of the same country. The hon. member was speaking of country to the east of Newcastle, towards Hampton Plains, whilst he was referring to the country north of Newcastle.

MR. A. FORREST thought he ought to know something about the district, having been there.

MR. HARPER said that he too had been in the district, and he could speak to there being a good cart road for a hundred miles of the distance from Newcastle. Some years ago he had collected specimens of auriferous stone from this very district, and had sent them to England for assay. He received a reply to the effect that, in the district from which the specimens came, valuable metals should be found.

MR. VENN thought that if any money was to be spent in prospecting it should be devoted to the Southern instead of the Eastern portions of the colony. Mr. Hardman had already reported favorably on the former.

MR. SHENTON said that it should be left to private enterprise to deal with those districts upon which a geologist such as Mr. Hardman had reported favorably. The district to which his motion referred had never been prospected and was practically uninhabited, and that was the best reason for the sending of the party there.

Motion put and passed.

UTILISATION OF GUANO DEPOSITS.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that some steps should be taken to render more available (for general use within the colony) the fertilising properties contained in the guano deposits on

the islands of our coast; and that a select committee be appointed to obtain information and suggest what steps, if any, should be taken with this object in view; such committee to consist of the following members: the Hon. J. A. Wright, Mr. Randell, Mr. Loton, Mr. Venn, Mr. Richardson, and the mover." The hon. member pointed out the advantages which such an excellent fertiliser as guano would prove in increasing the productiveness of the land. There were few things which our farmers stood more in need of than a cheap fertiliser, for the want of which the land was getting poorer and poorer every year. At the present time guano cost as much as from £7 to £8 per ton, which placed it beyond the reach of the majority of farmers. He should imagine that, if the Government took the matter in hand they would be in a position to make a good profit out of it, at a much lower price; and he should imagine that if the necessary plant were obtained for the conversion of phosphatic guano into superphosphates, the labor of the native prisoners at Rottnest might be profitably utilised in this direction. Unless the Government were prepared to take the matter in hand themselves, probably the best thing to do would be to offer a bonus to some company to establish the necessary works. He understood there was a considerable quantity of guano on the Abrolhos islands, and possibly the lessee of those islands might be induced to take the matter up, if sufficient encouragement were offered. If the committee were appointed, no doubt they would be able to make some practical suggestions on the subject.

MR. SHENTON, in seconding the motion, said it would undoubtedly be a great benefit to the agricultural interest if the farmers could be supplied with a cheap fertiliser, at a cost within the reach of the small man as well as of the big man. This question was first mooted by the Newcastle and Northam Settlers' Association, who, as practical men, knew the value of fertilising agents for increasing the productiveness of the land. But guano, at present, by reason of the high price charged for it, was beyond the means of the majority of our farmers; and, looking at the vast amount of wealth contained in the rich guano deposits on the islands on our coast, he thought it was

very desirable that some steps should be taken for utilising it, and placing it within reach of the cultivators of the soil.

The motion for a select committee was agreed to.

INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS AT WYNDHAM.

MR. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to cause to be laid upon the table of the House the report of Mr. Spencer on accounts at Wyndham, referred to in Council Paper No. 1, paragraph No. 9. He said that he moved this resolution on account of the frivolous excuse made by the Government when a question was asked on the subject the other day. The Government tried to hoodwink hon. members by saying that the report was confidential, and he was assured it was not.

MR. VENN seconded the motion. He had seen the report, and there was nothing in it of a confidential nature.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that what he had stated the other day was that there were other matters in the report of a confidential nature. He now laid on the table the report, so far as it related to the hon. member's question.

The motion was then, by leave, withdrawn.

EXCESS BILL, 1886: PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. RANDELL, in bringing under the notice of the House the progress report of the select committee to whom the Excess Bill for last year had been referred, said that when the committee came to inquire into the question of over-expenditure, and to compare the schedule of the bill with the public accounts for the year, it became apparent to them at once that there were several items of over-expenditure which did not appear in the bill, but which the committee were of opinion ought to appear in it. Although these sums had been expended with the consent of the Committee of Advice under the Audit Act, and although they did not, together with the other sums, exceed the total amounts authorised for the particular department, as a whole, still the

fact remained that so far as that House was concerned the expenditure upon some items had been in excess of the amount authorised; and, for that reason, the committee were of opinion this expenditure ought to have been included in the Excess Bill. The committee considered that when any particular item in any department, as authorised in the Estimates passed by that House, had not been expended for that specific purpose, the amount ought to be returned to the general revenue, and not be appropriated, as appeared to have been the practice in several cases, towards the payment of other items. The committee thought this ought not to be done even although the expenditure might be in connection with the same department. They found that it had frequently happened in several departments of the public service, and the practice was one which they thought could not be justified upon any sound financial principle. Under the head of "Miscellaneous" the committee found an overdraft of £931 16s. 8d. on the item of "Travelling expenses of officials," while, under the head of "Incidentals," they found an over-expenditure of no less than £1,339 11s. 9d., which, with other small sums, amounted in the aggregate to £3,086 2s. 7d. The committee considered that all these items of expenditure should come under the review of the House, equally with those included in the bill, and they recommended that in the interests of the public service this course should be followed in the preparation of all Excess Bills in the future. In this view the committee, on referring to the provisions of the Audit Act, found they were supported by the requirements of that Act. The committee, under these circumstances, had brought up what he might call a progress report, in order to acquaint the House with the position in which they had found themselves when they came to compare the bill with the public accounts prepared by the Colonial Treasurer. The committee suggested that the present bill be withdrawn and another bill brought in, containing all the items of over-expenditure, whether such items had been sanctioned by the Finance Committee or not, and irrespective of their having been met by under-drafts upon other items connected

with the same department. It therefore became his duty, as chairman of the committee, to move the following resolution, for the affirmation of hon. members: "That in the opinion of this House the Excess Bill for 1886 should be withdrawn, with the view of introducing another bill providing for the payment of all sums expended on any item of the Estimates over and above the amounts provided for those particular items in the Estimates for the year 1886. And that such bill have a complete schedule of every item of over-expenditure in the various departments of the public service."

Mr. MARMION concurred in the recommendation of the committee. He thought it was very desirable that in all future Excess Bills every unauthorised item of expenditure—he meant unauthorised by that House—ought to be shown. No one charged the Government with any intention to conceal anything in the way of expenditure, but it would be more satisfactory if the suggestions contained in this progress report were to be adopted, and adhered to in future.

Mr. SHENTON also supported the recommendations of the select committee. He did not think the House ever intended that, in the event of the money voted for some particular item not being required, it should be appropriated to cover an over-expenditure connected with another item. All these underdrafts should be carried to the credit of the general revenue; they would then see what the actual overdraft had been in connection with each particular item.

Mr. HENSMAN also supported the recommendations embodied in the report, and hoped the House would endorse them, and insist upon every item of over-expenditure being included in the Excess Bill that had not been authorised by that House. The present bill in no way disclosed the actual amount of unauthorised expenditure, and the proper course would be, as the committee suggested, to withdraw it, and introduce another bill, containing a full and complete schedule of every sum which had been expended on any particular service in excess of the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he was at one with the committee in a certain sense, but he

would point out that all the items of over-expenditure referred to by the committee, as well as all items of under-expenditure, were shown in the returns prepared by the Auditor General, and laid before the House. He did not see the force of recasting the present bill; but if it was the wish of the House that, in future, Excess Bills should show every particular item of over-expenditure, in the manner indicated by the committee, the Government would take care that it was done. He hoped the House would not insist on the necessity of recasting the present bill, in view of the information contained in the Auditor General's returns.

The motion submitted by Mr. Randell was then put and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1887.

On the order of the day for going into committee of supply for the further consideration of the Supplementary Estimates,

Mr. MARMION said that so far as the figures themselves were concerned he did not think he had much fault to find with them; but, speaking generally, as regards the amount covered by these Supplementary Estimates, he must find fault, and he thought other members must find fault, when they found that these Estimates represented about one-seventh part of the whole of the year's revenue, and that they led them to believe that by the end of the current year—a year that commenced so auspiciously with a handsome balance of between £80,000 and £90,000—their surplus will have been reduced to the very modest sum of about £4,000. For his own part, however, he was not prepared to believe that our position would be anything so bad as that. He thought they might add £20,000 to that amount. It appeared to him that the Suspense Account was a great deal to blame for the difficulty which they found in reconciling these figures. This was an evil which had been pointed out by the Auditor General in his report of last year, and it appeared that the evil was increasing rather than diminishing. "In that year alone," the Auditor General said, "no less a sum than £21,350 16s. 4d. was to the credit of this account, £12,396 5s. 9d. of which was for 'Works and Buildings.' The contracts

"for some of the works referred to in this account were accepted during the last month of the year, when, in my opinion, there was no necessity for it. It must be obvious that the large amount appearing to the credit of the Suspense Account at the end of the year has considerably diminished the balance to the credit of the colony at the close of 1886. It is sincerely to be hoped that the 14th section of the Audit Act in this regard will be carried out to the letter in future." He must say he was thoroughly in accord with the Auditor General in this matter, and he hoped that the provisions of the Audit Act would be strictly adhered to in future, for the present system simply resulted in misleading the House and the country at large as to the actual financial position. Although it was always very gratifying to find the finances of the colony in a flourishing state, it was also noticeable that whenever the Government found themselves flush of money they always found some means of expending it. They need not go farther than these Supplementary Estimates in proof of that. The principal objection he had to many of the works included in these Estimates was that they ought to be defrayed out of loan and not out of general revenue. He thought that, in the case of permanent public works such as these, the present generation should not be made to bear all the burden. He thought future generations, who would reap the benefit of this expenditure, should also bear a share of the burden; and he hoped the Government, when they came to deal with some of these items, would be able to inform the House that the general revenue would only be temporarily charged with them, until such time as they could be included in a Loan Bill. The most serious item was that of "Works and Buildings," which he observed swallowed up no less than £20,540, out of the £54,601, the total sum asked for. He thought this was an enormous sum for a colony like this, seeing the very liberal provision that had been made for this service on the Estimates-in-chief. Although they had every confidence in the head of the department, still he thought that hon. gentleman himself would not be surprised at their opening their eyes when they

saw this enormous supplemental expenditure, to come out of current revenue. The next large item which struck one as being singularly large, as appearing upon the Supplementary Estimates, was the Police Department. Seeing that they had already voted for this service £14,000 over the amount voted for the previous year, and seeing that they were now asked for nearly £3,000 more, bringing the total vote up to something approaching £50,000, he did think the House had good reason for expressing its surprise. There was a considerable increase also in the Printing Department, seeing that some £300 or £400 had been carried to Suspense Account. The vote for the Volunteer Department, too, was assuming a proportion which it had not reached hitherto, and £640 more was asked for it on the present Estimates. Reverting to the item of Works and Buildings, he found that the vote under this head was increasing at a rate which could only be described as "leaps and bounds." Last year the vote altogether amounted to £63,000. In 1881 the vote was a very modest one, not more than £3,400; in 1882 it rose to £7,900; in 1883, 1884, and 1885—taking the three years together—the total expenditure was £66,000, or only £3,000 more than in the one year following. As he had already said, several of these items ought clearly to come out of loan, and should be included in the schedule of the next Loan Bill. In addition to this, they voted £30,000 last year for public works in the Kimberley District. He thought that was an expenditure that ought to be extended over some years, or be made a charge upon the next loan. Granted that they were prepared—and he thought they were—to pass a Loan Bill for half a million, he thought they ought to put away at least £50,000 to refund the general revenue for the encroachments made upon it in connection with public works that were fairly chargeable to loan account. He thought it was their duty to husband their resources, and not spend more in any one year than they could afford. If they adhered to that policy, there was no fear but that the credit of the colony would continue good; and he hoped to find, before the session closed, that hon. members were prepared to go in for borrowing a large sum of money for

public works that would prove conducive to the progress and development of the colony.

MR. LOTON said there were one or two points in connection with these Supplementary Estimates which he wished to touch upon, very briefly. Supplementary estimates did not meet with his approval at all, and he thought that when they did come before them they should only embrace items of emergency,—items that could not have been foreseen when the annual Estimates were framed, and items which could not be delayed until the annual Estimates came before them again. It appeared to him that many of the items on these Supplementary Estimates hardly came within that category; and he agreed with the hon. member for Fremantle that many of them were fairly chargeable to loan account. He also agreed with the same hon. member as to the Suspense Account. Many of the works for which money had been voted had not been commenced, and, in that case, the vote ought to be allowed to lapse rather being carried to Suspense Account. The Colonial Secretary when he made his financial statement, in introducing these Estimates, urged the necessity of exercising caution, and pointed to the probable dwindling away of our grand surplus to about £4,000 by the end of the year. The hon. member for Fremantle, taking a much more sanguine view, told them he believed they would have at least £20,000 more than that. He was very doubtful about it himself. He apprehended a very considerable deficiency in many branches of the revenue. He was not a prophet, but he ventured to say that there would be a deficiency of fully £5,000 in the Customs revenue, compared with the estimate. Take again the Land revenue. They had to raise £33,000 under this head, in comparison with £27,000 from the same source in the previous year. He should not be surprised if it should be £10,000 less. He thought that in these two items, Customs and Land, there would be a deficiency of not less than £15,000. He thought, if it was not more, they might consider themselves very lucky. Then again there was the revenue from Railways. The Commissioner of Railways, in his report, told them that the receipts on the Eastern Railway last year showed an increase of

40 per cent.; but he would point out that in order to come up to the estimated receipts for the current year it would have to increase very considerably more, and he ventured to say that on this item there would be a deficit of not much less than £5,000. These were serious facts. He thought the estimated revenue from these sources would not be realised by a sum of not less than £20,000. He agreed, as he had already said, that many of the items on these Supplementary Estimates had no right to be charged to the general revenue, and he thought it was not good policy to strain the revenue unduly in this way. He thought these Supplementary Estimates, which represented a very large sum of money, should be considered very carefully, and that they ought to be able to reduce them very considerably.

MR. RICHARDSON thought the hon. member for Fremantle had advanced a somewhat dangerous doctrine when he advanced the proposition that the cost of all permanent works should be defrayed out of loan. The hon. member might as well have contended that roads and bridges should be made and maintained out of loan funds. One thing was very certain—we could not go on borrowing for ever, and he thought the principle enunciated was not a safe one, that everything done in the shape of permanent works should come out of borrowed money. Sooner or later the day of reckoning must come; and, so long as the general revenue maintained its elasticity, he thought they might fairly and properly devote a portion of it to the execution of public works of a permanent and useful character.

MR. MARMION said, although we might not be able to go on borrowing for ever, he hoped we should continue to borrow so long as we could see our way to provide for it. That was his policy, and he had never been afraid to enunciate it.

MR. SHENTON thought with the hon. member, Mr. Loton, it was a question for serious consideration whether the revenue for the remaining half year would come up to the estimate. For his own part he thought there would be a deficiency, and that instead of there being a credit balance of £4,000 at the end of the year there would be a debit balance of about that amount, and that the year 1888

would be entered upon with a deficit rather than a surplus. He did not object so much to that, nor did it alarm him in any way. He thought that there had not been so much regard paid to the public expenditure of late years, simply because of these surplus balances that were available. The Government, finding that they had a credit balance, generally became more lavish in their expenditure than if they had some difficulty to make both ends meet; and he did not think it was an unmixed blessing always to have these surplus balances to fall back upon. It had a tendency to encourage extravagance on the part of the Government; and, once they got into that habit, it would be difficult to get them out of it. He noticed that the vote for the Police Department loomed up very largely, and he was afraid they would have to adopt the same course with reference to it as they did some sessions ago—confine the vote to a certain amount, and refuse to authorise any additional expenditure. The result on the previous occasion was very satisfactory. There was no doubt that the expenditure in connection with this department was altogether out of proportion with the revenue and population of the colony.

MR. A. FORREST congratulated the Government on their proposal to spend £54,000 out of their surplus balance. He was glad to find that surveys were going to be carried on in this Southern part of the colony, where they had been sadly neglected for years past. With regard to the Police vote, he agreed with the previous speakers that it was becoming a very serious item. Some years ago the vote was cut down to £20,000; and the work was carried out with that sum. But now it had swollen again to about £50,000—a tremendous sum for a population of 40,000 souls. With reference to Works and Buildings, he did not think there was much fault to be found with the vote, on the whole; though no doubt there were some of the items which should come out of loan. Hon. members generally liked to hear of public works being undertaken in their districts; and he hoped himself to submit some new items for the approval of the House before the session closed. With regard to the question of another loan, to which reference had been made by previous speakers, he

hoped the session would not close without their passing a Loan Bill of at least a million sterling. As to the Land revenue, he agreed with the hon. member, Mr. Loton, that it would fall very far short of the estimate. He should not be surprised if it did so to the extent of £15,000 or £20,000.

Audit Department, £10 :

Agreed to.

Survey Department, £1,500 :

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said this was required to carry on the surveys in the Central District, the sum voted on the Estimates-in-chief having already been expended. He believed this was a vote to which no objection would be taken. The Acting Surveyor General, in his report, said: "In the Central District the vote of £4,000 has been expended in an economical manner as possible, in marking out the various lands that have been taken up by purchase or special occupation license; but it has proved utterly inadequate to meet the demands made for such work."

MR. RICHARDSON hoped the committee would make no objection to this vote, which was absolutely necessary to the settlement of the country. It was impossible for people to commence operations upon their lands until they had the boundaries fixed; and the Land Regulations passed last session would render further surveys absolutely necessary. They might as well abandon all efforts at settlement, if they were not prepared to keep up the necessary surveys; and he thought there was not a more desirable vote on the Estimates than that for survey work.

MR. KEANE agreed as to the importance of surveys, and, for his own part, he thought it would be a good thing for the colony if this vote was £15,000 instead of £1,500.

MR. HENSMAN was not going to oppose the vote; but why could not this have been included in the Estimates last session? Surely work of this kind might have been foreseen. If any large quantity of land had been taken up unexpectedly since last session, it would have been a different thing. They all knew that money expended in surveys was money well spent; but the question now before them was, why should not this amount

have been included in the main Estimates, instead of swelling these Supplementary Estimates.

MR. VENN said the Land Regulations passed last year would entail more survey work than ever, and, although he was not in accord with those regulations, he thought now that they had become the law of the land they ought to be carried out. To do that, they must declare certain areas and have them surveyed; and that could not be done without money.

MR. SHOLL said, although he did not object to the vote, he agreed with the hon. member for the Greenough that this was an expenditure that might have, and ought to have, been foreseen. He thought that heads of departments when they framed their estimates for the year ought to be able to foresee all they would require, in the ordinary way of expenditure, without calling upon that House to vote these additional items before the year was half out.

MR. LOTON said the reason why the head of this particular department did not ask for more was because he thought he could not get it. There could be no doubt as to the necessity for surveys being carried out, and he regarded it as a work of urgent necessity, although objecting as he had already said to these supplementary votes.

The vote was then agreed to.

Customs Department, £1,129 6s. 8d. :

MR. SHENTON asked for some information as to the item under the head of "Contingencies," £706.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the amount was principally for the payment of officers occasionally employed, and it was placed here in pursuance of a requisition from the Collector of Customs, who assured him the money would be required before the end of the year.

MR. SHOLL moved that the item, "Extra assistant landing waiter, Albany, £90," be struck out. He thought it quite unnecessary to provide these extra assistants.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the Customs work at Albany had quadrupled since the starting of the Albany-Beverley Railway. He thought he was within the

mark when he said that the amount of goods imported had quadrupled.

Mr. MARMION thought it was unwise to employ occasional hands in the Customs Department.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said if hon. members intended to strike out the item he would move to report progress at this stage, so as to confer with the Collector of Customs.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

SURVEY OF RAILWAY FROM GERALDTON TO MULLEWA.

On the order of the day for the adjourned debate upon this motion,

Mr. MARMION said he believed that many members sympathised with the object which the hon. member for Geraldton had in view, and hoped before long to see it carried out. But he did not feel himself justified in the present condition of affairs to support the motion to place a sum on next year's Estimates for this survey. Nor did he think the hon. member was likely to meet with much support from the House generally.

Mr. KEANE said he felt it would be useless on his part to press the motion, and, under the circumstances, sooner than court a defeat, he would withdraw it, although he was quite prepared to go into the question of cost of construction of a light line, if the Commissioner of Railways wished it.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MAIL SERVICE, NORTHAMPTON TO NOOKAWARRA.

On the order of the day for the resumption of the debate upon this motion,

Mr. A. FORREST said he had been informed there was no real necessity for this mail service, and that it would only accommodate some two or three settlers. Under these circumstances he failed to see why that House should be called upon to vote £200 or £300 a year for such a service.

Mr. HENSMAN was informed there were at least a dozen settlers who would be accommodated by the proposed service. He thought there was nothing more important than that they should provide a regular means of postal com-

munication for these outlying settlers. They were told the service would not cost more than about £150 a year, and the question seemed to resolve itself into this—could this great colony afford £150 a year?

The motion, upon being put, was negatived.

COPYRIGHT REGISTER BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

RAILWAY SERVANTS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at forty-five minutes past ten o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 19th July, 1887.

Message (No. 11): Report of Australasian Stock Conference: referred to select committee—Message (No. 12): Land Grant Railway Proposals: referred to select committee—Message (No. 12): Water Supply for Perth and Fremantle: referred to select committee—Message (No. 13): Amendments in Goldfields Regulations: referred to select committee—Message (No. 15): Revision of Customs Tariff: referred to select committee—Clackline-Nowcastle Railway Bill: first reading—Inspector of Accounts' Report on the "Store" question—Petition for Reduction of Royalty on PearlsHELLS—Supplementary Estimates, 1887: further consideration in committee—"Hansard" reports—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE (No. 11): AUSTRALASIAN STOCK CONFERENCE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) moved that the consideration of Message No. 11 (Report of Australasian Stock Conference) be referred to a select committee; and that such committee consist of Mr. E. Brockman, Mr. McRae, Mr. Harper, Mr. Venn, and Mr. Layman, with power to call for persons and papers, and to report in a week.

Agreed to.