

vision were made whereby members should know what the notices were about before they were called upon to deal with them. If it were provided that no notice should be given for the next day immediately following—so that members might have an opportunity of seeing a notice on the paper one day at least before it came on for discussion, his principal objection to the new rule would be removed, though he was afraid it would still lead to some inconvenience.

MR. RANDELL said that notwithstanding the august precedent relied upon, he had no sympathy with the alterations proposed, and he thought the hon. baronet himself had referred to a very good reason why the matter should not now be dealt with, namely, that the present Council expired by effluxion of time with this session, and it might be left to the new Council to amend the Standing Orders if they wished to do so. He thought it was very desirable indeed that members should hear all notices given openly and publicly in the House, and also that the reporters should hear them, so that the public might have an opportunity of seeing them in print, before they came on for discussion, as the public were often interested in the business of the House.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL thought the evils apprehended by some hon. members from the proposed change of practice were imaginary rather than real. He did not think there had been any disposition manifested to show anything but a fair spirit in connection with the proceedings in that House, and he did not suppose the adoption of these amended orders would cause any change in that respect.

MR. LOTON said, no doubt the object in view was to facilitate the business of the House, but, in doing so, he thought the House should watch very narrowly that any Standing Orders introduced in lieu of those now in force were not a retrograde step. From what had fallen in the course of the discussion he was inclined to think it would have been very wise to have allowed the Standing Orders in force to remain as they were. It appeared to him that to hand the notices to the Clerk at the Table, without their being read at all, would be a very objectionable practice in a small assembly like ours.

On the other hand, he admitted it would be inconvenient for hon. members to be getting up during a sitting to read these notices aloud, while there was other business before the House. There was a considerable difficulty to his mind in the matter, but he thought it would be very objectionable to have the notices given to the Clerk as it were privately. He would therefore move that the words "to the Clerk of the Council," in the first line of the proposed Order No. 41, should be struck out.

Question put—That the words proposed to be struck out stand part of the question.

A division being called for, the numbers were—

Ayes	13
Noes	8
Majority for			5

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Brown	Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Burt	Hon. A. E. Henniman
Mr. Carey	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Crowther	Mr. Mason
Mr. Grant	Mr. Glyde
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Loton
Mr. Higham	Mr. Marazion
Mr. S. S. Parker	Mr. Randell (Teller).
Mr. S. H. Parker	
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Steere	
Mr. Venn	
Sir T. C. Campbell (Teller).	

The motion was then put and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 24th July, 1884.

Wharf at Carnarvon—Rabbits and the Rabbit Act—
Naval Deserters Bill: third reading—Regulation
of Whipping Bill: third reading—Supplementary
Estimates, 1884: in committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

WHARF AT CARNARVON.

MR. BROWN, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public

Works whether tenders were publicly invited for the construction of the Carnarvon wharf? If so, to lay upon the table a copy of such invitation. Also, to lay upon the table all correspondence, if any, between the Works Department and any person or persons in reference to the said wharf; also, a copy of every report or written communication, if any, received by the Department from the Inspector of Works relating to the said wharf; also, a copy of the plans, specifications, and estimates of the wharf; and a copy of all tenders received for the performance of the work.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) replying, said: Tenders have not been invited for the construction of a wharf at Carnarvon. Before Mr. Gardiner, the Assistant Surveyor on the Roebourne Telegraph Line, started, he received instructions from me to obtain all necessary information with regard to the proposed site for the jetty at Carnarvon, take the necessary soundings, and report fully. On receipt of this report I shall be happy to lay a copy on the table of the House, if required. I place upon the table copies of the only correspondence I can find with reference to this wharf or jetty. No report or any written communication has at any time been received from the Inspector of Works in reference to this subject. Since the instructions to Mr. Gardiner, an offer with accompanying plan for a small jetty has been made by Messrs. Crowther and Baston, which is a reasonable one, viz., £70; it will be constructed at once, and when carried out will be sufficient for some time to come, in the way of jetty accommodation, so I have been informed, to meet the requirements inside the Creek, as only a vessel of light draught can enter the Creek at high water.

MR. BROWN said he should like to know why tenders had not been invited for the construction of a work which that House had decided twelve months ago should be performed.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said tenders were not invited before because that full and complete information which it was necessary to have before inviting tenders had not been received.

MR. BROWN: And yet we are now told that a tender has been accepted, although this full and complete information has not been received by the Government. We are also told that before Mr. Gardiner the assistant surveyor went up, he received instructions from the Director of Public Works to obtain all necessary information as to the site for this jetty at Carnarvon. I should now like to ask the Director of Public Works whether a site has even yet been fixed for that jetty?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason): Does the hon. member mean whether the site has been pegged out?

MR. BROWN: No, but whether Messrs. Crowther & Baston, the contractors, yet know the precise position where they have to put up this jetty, or whether in other words they may put it up where they like?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason): The site which has been chosen is, I am informed, the most suitable for it. As to whether they may put up any sort of jetty they choose, that is certainly not the case. They have to put up a landing stage—for that is what it is, and not a jetty—in accordance with the plan and with the specifications of the Public Works Department.

MR. BROWN: I asked for a copy of these plans and specifications, but they are not produced. What has become of them? I feel that, as the member for the district, I have some responsibility cast upon me in connection with this work, and I am anxious that the House should see what it has got for the money it voted last session for this wharf. The hon. gentleman tells us that a tender has been accepted for a jetty "with accompanying plan," which he says is a reasonable tender. How does the hon. gentleman know it is a reasonable tender if he has not the plan? If he has it, why does he not produce it?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason): Sir, I think it is useless continuing this discussion. If the hon. member will put his questions on the Notice Paper I will endeavor to answer them.

MR. BROWN: As it is the hon. gentleman's desire not to answer these

questions verbally put, I do not wish to press him, and there are reasons why. I believe, the Works Department entirely forgot that the Government were pledged to the construction of a jetty or a wharf at Carnarvon, and that at the eleventh hour they accepted the tender of somebody to construct something for £70. If they have made a mistake in doing so, I trust it is not too late, and that it is within their power to withdraw what has been done, until this House has an opportunity of judging whether it is such a work as was contemplated when the money was voted. As the hon. gentleman wishes to have these questions placed on the Notice Paper I will do so, and I hope the hon. gentleman will be prepared with a full and satisfactory reply.

RABBITS AND THE RABBIT ACT.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary if any information had been received regarding the presence of rabbits on our mainlands, and whether the Rabbit Act had in any way been carried out; also that the Government would give the House any information in its possession on the subject.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that no information had been received by the Government on the subject, but that the principal officers of police in the different districts of the colony had been appointed and gazetted as Inspectors under the Act. There was no other information that he could give the hon. member on the subject.

NAVAL DESERTERS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

REGULATION OF WHIPPING BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1884.— INCREASE OF SALARIES, CIVIL SERVANTS.

On the motion for the House going into committee for the consideration of the Supplementary Estimates for 1884 (dealing chiefly with the proposed increases in the salaries of certain public officers)—

MR. CAREY said if he thought he could get sufficient support to carry out his wishes in the matter of these Estimates, he would move that they be referred to a select committee; but he did not suppose he would have a majority if he were to do so, and, as he desired to say a few words with reference to the proposed increases, he would take this opportunity of doing so. He did not think it would be any use for him to attempt to oppose the passing of any of the items on these Estimates, seeing that they were based upon the recommendations of a body of gentlemen who also were members of that House, and who, he presumed, would support their own recommendations. And as the proposed increases had also met with the approval of the Government, hon. members on the Government bench would of course support these proposals, which seemed to have been cut and dried before they came to that House, like the tariff was a few years ago, when a commission was appointed to revise it. He felt himself, however, that these proposals would cause very great dissatisfaction among the officers of the civil service, and he almost thought—although he had spoken strongly last session in favor of a revision of salaries—that it would have been as well if matters had been allowed to remain as they were. He believed it would have caused less disappointment and heart-burning. On reference to the Blue Book, he found that the number of public officers in the colonial service was 344, and of this number he found that only 137 had been selected for increases in their salaries, so that naturally the 207 unfortunates who were left out in the cold would feel very much dissatisfied indeed. He thought he might say that the impression, that the intention, last year, was that there should be a per centage increase all round, regulated according to salary, the greater salaries receiving a smaller per centage, and the smaller salaries a larger per centage; but he found that the total amount proposed to be added to the salaries throughout the service was only £3,129. Of this sum he noticed that £635 went to four officers; that twenty-three officers got £1,175 between them, being an average of £51 each; thus leaving £1,329 to be divided between the remaining 110, or an

average of about £12 each. The hon. member then proceeded to point out what he conceived to be individual cases of hardship or of favoritism in various departments of the service, when a Point of Order was raised as to whether the hon. member had a right to comment upon the Estimates generally at this stage.

MR. SPEAKER: I am perfectly aware that at this stage an hon. member is allowed a large latitude of speech, but I think the hon. member is exceeding that latitude in dealing with votes that have not yet come before the House in committee. *May* says: "It is a common practice, without moving any amendment, to call the attention of the House to particular subjects on the question for the Speaker leaving the chair, the rule of relevancy in debate, as well as in amendments, being wholly ignored on these occasions." [MR. CAREY: I thought so.] Perhaps the hon. member will wait until I have finished. "But," says *May*, "with these exceptions—that a member may not discuss any previous or intended votes of the committee of supply, or items on the Estimates." The hon. member is therefore clearly out of order.

MR. SHENTON moved the adjournment of the House, in order to enable the hon. member for the Vasse to continue his remarks.

MR. CAREY thanked the hon. member; but, under the circumstances, he felt that it would be useless on his part to say any more.

The motion for adjournment was then put and negatived.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the Speaker do now leave the chair.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

Governor's Establishment, Item £100:

MR. BROWN said he had no doubt whatever that a more suitable body of gentlemen to whom to have referred the question of salaries could not have been selected than the committee to whom His Excellency referred the question, and he believed, speaking generally, that the outcome was an uncommonly good basis to work upon. The hon. member for the Vasse said he assumed that in conse-

quence of these gentlemen being also members of that House, the Government would be prepared by sheer force to carry every item on these Estimates. He (Mr. Brown), however, did not for a moment suppose that those who were on that committee considered themselves in any way pledged to their recommendations. He assumed that they considered themselves perfectly at liberty, after discussion, to vote in accordance with any further light that might be thrown upon any of these items. What position the Government would take he could not say, but he should imagine that having remitted the question to this committee and accepted their recommendations the Government would feel bound to give what he might call a loyal support to these recommendations. But he hoped that, with reference to each item, the House would be furnished either by the leader of the Government or some other member of the Audit Committee with the reasons which had induced them to come to the conclusion that such item was necessary and fair. He had no objection whatever to make to the vote now before the committee, but, as they went on, he might have some remarks to offer. If, however, the intention of the Government on the one hand, and of the members of the committee to whom the question was referred on the other, was to stick by the recommendations now before the House, he felt it would be very little use indeed his taking any steps in the matter. There seemed to be a feeling among hon. members that it would be ungracious to take exception to this committee's recommendations, especially as they had been approved by the Governor. He admitted that to some extent it might appear ungracious, and he had no doubt that every hon. member felt that, with the information which the committee of advice had before them, they could not themselves have arrived at a more just conclusion. But the Legislative Council had its responsibilities, and one of these responsibilities was to see that a wise and proper course was adopted in dealing with the claims of public servants. It was impossible for the members of that House to shelter themselves behind the action of any outside body. It would not do for them hereafter to say, if a question arose as to

the just claims of public officers, that the House had delegated to this outside committee its own constitutional functions, and that because they had great faith in the members of that committee and in their recommendations—which he confessed he himself had, for they appeared to him pretty fair—but it would not do, for that reason, for the Legislative Council to say hereafter that it had delegated its functions to this committee.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it might assist hon. members and facilitate the business on hand if he were at this stage to make a few remarks upon what had just fallen from the hon. member for the Gascoyne. Speaking generally with regard to these items and the report of the committee appointed by the Governor to deal with the subject, the report, as was evidenced by the minute attached to it by the Governor, was received by His Excellency with favor. His Excellency said: "Having considered the schedule of 'immediate increases recommended by the committee, I am of opinion that they are well deserved, fair, and reasonable, and I accordingly direct them to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates.'" With regard to the members of the committee, he thought he was right in saying—if not, he hoped they would correct him—that the members were unanimous in the recommendations which emanated from them; but should any new light be thrown upon any item embraced in these Estimates during their discussion, or should any new light be thrown upon any other possible claims, he believed he was right in saying that the members of the committee, now in the House, regarded themselves at liberty to consider the matter in the light of any additional information laid before them. But they were agreed that these items should not be reduced. So much for the committee. Speaking now as the financial officer of the Government in that House, he should consider it his duty to support—and, if necessary, to divide the House upon any item appearing in these Supplementary Estimates which it was sought to reduce. With regard to any proposals that might emanate from hon. members for further increases, he was not at that moment authorised to give any expression of opinion. The only

thing he could say was this,—that, if reasonable, he should not oppose their being submitted to His Excellency, provided that the total sum dealt with by these Estimates was not exceeded. If any member of the Audit Committee dissented from what he had stated, he thought it would be well if he were, in his place, now to express that dissent, so that the House might know exactly the position assumed by the committee and the Government in this matter.

MR. CROWTHER said if the amount of the Estimates now before them was not to be exceeded, he failed to see what was the good of hon. members suggesting any more increases. While agreeing that a better selection could not have been made for referring this question to than the committee appointed by the Governor, he must confess that he was not in accord with their recommendations. Instead of commencing with the lower grades of the public service, the committee appeared to have commenced with the upper grades, and to have stopped there. Moreover, he found that out of 344 officers in the civil service, the number recommended for an increase was only 136, of which he noticed that 96 resided at Perth, Fremantle, or Rottneest, in the immediate vicinity of headquarters, and therefore in a position to bring their claims more directly under the notice of the Government and the revising committee. He did not mean to say that the claims recognised were not claims based upon long service, efficiency, and all that, but he did say this—his honest conviction was that we had many other men deserving of consideration, men who had been in the civil service for years, but who were not yet receiving a sufficient salary to live upon. He was quite in accord with what the Governor said, that the most that could be done was to consider a few special cases, in which the salary was manifestly too low, either for the nature of the duties required, or for the absolute support of the officer. But they all knew there were men employed in the lower grades of the service who were not in receipt of enough pay to enable them to exist respectably, unless they got some outside work, and it was from among this class that he should have wished to see the selections made for an increase of salary. He did

not mean to say that every man appearing on these Estimates was not deserving of the increase proposed to be given to him, but he did not think these increases ought to be given to this class of civil servants when the country is not in a position also to afford an adequate rise in the salaries of the lower grades.

MR. MARMION said he was glad to find one hon. member who had a slight meed of praise for the Commission appointed by the Governor to deal with this question. The hon. member who had just sat down stated that he was not in a position to say that any of the officers recommended for an increase did not deserve such increase; but the hon. member found fault with the committee because, as he stated, they did not deal with the lower grades of the service. He thought when the hon. member made that assertion he should be prepared to show that it was a correct one, and to point out, as they went through these Estimates, that the committee had not dealt with all the officers whose claims came before them in a just and fair manner. It was quite within the bounds of possibilities that some cases, perhaps many cases, escaped the attention of the committee. Were they likely ever to have a committee of that House or a body of gentlemen who would give satisfaction to everyone? The members of this Commission did not object to being found fault with, but he thought it was hardly fair to deal with their recommendations in the generally sweeping manner in which hon. members up to the present had spoken of them, as if they had given satisfaction to nobody, either inside the House or outside the House.

MR. BURT rose to a point of order. What was the question before the committee?

THE CHAIRMAN: That a sum not exceeding £100 be granted for the Governor's Establishment.

MR. BURT: Then I submit the hon. member is out of order.

THE CHAIRMAN said he did not like to interrupt the hon. member, but there could be no doubt the hon. member was out of order.

MR. MARMION said he had no wish to dispute the Chairman's ruling, but this certainly appeared to him to be a new move. This was not the first time

when, upon moving the first item on the Estimates, the whole subject had been dealt with in a general way.

THE CHAIRMAN said it may have been allowed on previous occasions, but there could be no doubt that the proper time to have made these comments was upon the motion to go into committee.

MR. MARMION hoped he might be pardoned if he stated that as one of the committee referred to he could only say that they devoted a great deal of time and a great deal of consideration to the subject. He thought hon. members would be prepared to allow that the committee, having before it the recommendations of the heads of the various departments and information available, and having had ample time to consider the matter, must have been in a better position to do so than the hon. members of that House could be, on the spur of the moment.

MR. STEERE thought the thanks of the Legislature were largely due to the committee. He felt last session, when this subject was before the House, that the question was one which it would be very difficult for the Government to find anybody to deal with in such a way as to give satisfaction to everyone. He understood the committee had devoted a very great deal of time to the duties cast upon them, and heard all the claims put forward by the various officers and the heads of departments, and they must of necessity have had far better opportunities of investigating all claims and of considering individual cases than that House could possibly have, or even a select committee of that House. He thought that, taking their report altogether, they had arrived at a very fair conclusion. He did not mean to say there might not be individual cases of hardship,—it was not to be expected that any committee or body of men could succeed in giving absolute satisfaction to all parties; but, on the whole, the recommendations were in his opinion such as he could conscientiously support. He saw nothing in them to dissent from. It would be an absurdity to expect that any scheme would give satisfaction to every officer in the service. If double the amount proposed to be expended had been recommended, there would still have been disappointment. For his own

part he meant to give the recommendations of the committee his cordial approval.

Mr. RANDELL said he had been very much anticipated by what had been already said by hon. members on this subject, but he wished to express his thanks, as an individual member, to the committee for the very fair way in which they had discharged their onerous and difficult duties. It was a task which very few members of that House would have coveted. That there were individual cases of hardship they were well aware of, but, after the instructions which the committee received from His Excellency the Governor, he did not see what more the committee could have done. There was no doubt, however, that their proposals did not meet the intentions of the Legislature—certainly not his own—last session. He had expected there would have been a general increase throughout the public service, and the lowest amount he expected to see added to the expenditure in connection with the civil service of the colony was £10,000. Looking at the proposals generally, however, and viewing them in the light of the committee's instructions, he was perfectly satisfied with what had been done. He was aware of several cases in which an apparent hardship had been inflicted, and when they came to these cases he should ask for some information from the members of the committee with reference to them. The committee might have reasons which he or that House was not in possession of; there could be no doubt that being seized of all the facts of the case the committee had been in a better position to form a just opinion than hon. members in that House could possibly be. He had no reduction to propose, nor suggested increase, in the item now before the House.

The item, "Governor's Establishment, £100," was then agreed to.

Legislative Council, Item £145 (Speaker, £50; Chairman of Committees, £50; Clerk of Council, £25; Sergeant-at-Arms, £20):

Mr. RANDELL said he should like to have some information with reference to the two first items. Perhaps the Colonial Secretary, as chairman of the Finance

Committee, would inform the House what were the reasons which induced the committee to recommend an addition to the salary of the Speaker and of the Chairman of Committees. He thought that both these officers were to a very large extent not only honorable but also honorary, and occupied as such by the gentlemen who now occupied them. He would also draw attention to the fact that this was the last session of the present Council, and, under the circumstances, it occurred to him as being rather strange that an addition of £50 should be made in the salaries of these two officers of the House. He believed that the honorarium paid to the Speaker of the House was not intended as so much salary for services rendered, but in order to meet the expenses incidental to the exercising his hospitality as Speaker towards hon. members; and, knowing the present holder of the office as they did, they might be pretty sure that in his case there was no desire for any increase. He was sure the Speaker himself never asked for this addition to the amount of his allowance. As to the Chairman of Committees, the duties of that office were very responsible duties no doubt, but they did not take long to discharge. He presumed that on the whole they did not take up more than two months in the year, and he thought that if they paid their Chairman at the rate of £600 a year they would be doing as much as could be expected of them. His own individual opinion was that £100 was quite sufficient salary for the Chairman of Committees, considering the duties he had to perform in that House. He also took exception to these items upon other grounds,—he thought it would be setting a bad example, and it looked very much as if the members of that House were very careful in looking after themselves. As had been already stated there were numbers of cases of hardship in the Civil Service—of officers having barely enough salary to maintain themselves decently, yet the Council began on the very first stage of these Estimates to give additions to some of its own members. If the explanation he had asked for should not be satisfactory, he should move that these two items be struck out.

SIR L. S. LEAKE thought it was due to himself that he should say that, as

the head of the department "Legislative Council," certain papers were forwarded to him, in common he supposed with other heads of departments, asking what increases he should recommend. He need scarcely say that he did not recommend the Speaker to any increase. In that House, as he had stated before, he was perfectly willing to give his time to the duties of his office, and, as hon. members were aware, he had never himself sought any payment, so far as his duties in the House were concerned; and, so far as the Speaker's hospitalities were concerned, he was quite satisfied with the present allowance, or, if hon. members were agreeable that these official hospitalities should be dispensed with, he was quite prepared to forego all pay. In order to assist the Government in this case, he would himself move that the item "Speaker, £50," be struck out.

Mr. STEERE said His Honor the Speaker had stated his objection to receiving any addition to his honorarium, and, as the Chairman of Committees could not now speak for himself, perhaps he (Mr. Steere) might be permitted to express the Chairman's own views with reference to this same matter. The Chairman of Committees had informed him that it was very much against his wish that the salary attached to his office should be raised. He thought it was only right he should make this statement, as the Chairman was precluded from making it himself. For his own part he disapproved of both these items appearing on the Supplementary Estimates, though he should be quite prepared to support them if placed on the Estimates proper, for next year; for he thought the salaries paid to these two officials were inadequate in the case of the two gentlemen now filling the office. It was certainly correct to say that to a certain extent they were honorary offices; at the same time he thought the salary attached to them ought at any rate be sufficient to recoup them for the valuable time which they devoted to the duties of that House. He did not think the hon. member, Mr. Randell, had taken quite a correct view of the case when he stated that the salary was equivalent to £600 a year, for, although the Parliamentary session only lasted two months, it was very valuable time at any rate to

one of them, the hon. gentleman in the Chair, who could very ill afford to give up so much of his time to the House. But he disapproved of the two items appearing on the Supplementary Estimates, though, as already said, if brought forward on next year's Estimates he would most willingly support them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) was sure the Finance Committee in dealing with this question did not take into view the personalities of the gentlemen now holding these offices; the general feeling was that they were inadequately rewarded, and he hoped himself to see the items allowed to pass on the Supplementary Estimates, although the hon. gentlemen themselves might decline to accept the increase. The hon. member for the Swan said that next year he would be quite willing to support the proposal, but looking at the fact that this was the last session of the present Council, and that there was no telling what might eventuate between this and next year—possibly the officers themselves might have to be changed—and seeing that it was generally admitted that the salary paid was too low, he failed to see why the present holders of the office should not benefit by the proposed increase.

Mr. S. H. PARKER said that as one of the members of the Commission appointed to consider this question of salaries, he might be permitted to explain that one reason which guided the committee in coming to the conclusion to place these increases on the Supplementary Estimates was because they thought the pay wholly inadequate to the position which these two officers of the House filled. The position of Speaker, they all knew, was a position involving a large expenditure in the way of hospitalities, and although the present Speaker had told them that he was prepared to discharge the duties of the office, so far as that House was concerned, without any honorarium, still they might not always have so generous-hearted a Speaker as the present occupant of the office, or one who could afford to dispense with this honorarium. And as it was generally admitted that the pay attached to the two offices was low, and seeing that they were now dealing with the question of salaries, it appeared to the Commission

that this would be an opportune time to make these additions.

MR. MARMION said it might be argued that taking into consideration the actual amount of time devoted to the work of the House, the salaries paid to these officers even now might appear proportionately high; but did that honorable House mean to treat its Speaker and its Chairman as if they were hired laborers? He thought, in view of the possibility hinted at of the present holders of these officers, or of either of them, not having a seat in the next Council, that to put off increasing the salary until next year would be a very ungracious thing towards the present occupants of the chair. His own individual opinion inclined in favor of giving the Speaker an extra £100 a year, but the majority of the members of the Commission were in favor of £50 for each.

The question that the first item, "Speaker, £50," be struck out was then put and negatived on the voices.

The vote was then agreed to, as printed.

Colonial Secretary's Department, Item £160:

Agreed to without comment.

Treasury Department, Item £200:

MR. CAREY asked what special reasons there were for recommending the Colonial Treasurer to an increase of £100, when a similar proposition last year was rejected by the House? The House vetoed it then, and how could they be expected to pass it now on these Supplementary Estimates.

MR. S. H. PARKER said that when the question of increasing the salaries of certain public officers was referred to the Commission, they were specially informed by a memorandum from the Governor that the members of the Executive were not to be included in the Commission's labors. Nevertheless, the members of the Commission, after discussing amongst themselves the claims of two such very old public servants as the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer, arrived at the conclusion that both of those officers were fairly entitled to these increases. The Treasurer was a gentleman who had filled an official position in this colony for a great many years, and, he

thought, at a comparatively small salary—the smallest salary of any member of the Executive Government; and, when some years ago the work in the Treasury was not done in as satisfactory a manner as the House thought it ought to be done, they must remember they did not spare the Treasurer then, but used some very strong language towards him. He was almost held up to public execration,—at any rate he was held up as a by-word amongst them as to the manner in which the Treasury accounts were kept, at that time. But, since then, there had been a great change, and a change for the better, and the Treasury accounts were now kept in a most admirable manner. He believed, from what he knew of the subject, there was no department of the public service conducted in a more satisfactory manner now than the Treasury. Taking into consideration his long period of service, and the most praiseworthy way in which the work of his department was at present performed, and also looking at his position as a member of the Executive—looking at all these considerations, it appeared to the Commission that it would be only fair to the Colonial Treasurer he should receive this increase.

MR. BROWN did not think the hon. member for the Vasse was right in saying that the House vetoed a similar proposition last year. The House pronounced no opinion on the substantive question itself; the only thing upon which an opinion was expressed was whether the increase should be made last year or whether the Treasurer should wait until the claims of other public officers were dealt with. The House refused to vote this increase last year, simply on the ground that the Government themselves had asked hon. members not to put forward any special cases, as the Government proposed to deal with the whole question before the present session. He thought himself the increase was not only a just increase and thoroughly deserved by the officer at present holding the office; but that the salary attached to the office of Colonial Treasurer, apart from the special claims of the present holder of it, would not be more than it ought to be, when they added this £100 to it. It was a very responsible position, and one which

ought to carry with it a salary such as it was now proposed to make it up to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said hon. members would see on reference to His Excellency's despatch to the Secretary of State on this subject of increasing the salaries of public officers, that the Governor made a distinct promise to bring forward again the £100 approved of by the Secretary as a personal allowance to Mr. Lefroy, and this was only a fulfilment of that promise. He maintained in voting this item they would not only be doing an act of justice but also paying a well deserved tribute of respect due to a gentleman who had for very many years filled a very onerous and responsible position in the public service of the Colony.

MR. CAREY: When I got up, I got up simply to ask for information. That information having been furnished, I did not rise in any way to oppose the vote.

The item was then put and passed.

Audit Department, Item £125:

MR. CAREY, referring to the first item, "Auditor General, £50," said he thought this was a case where the Commission had taken the officer rather than the office into consideration.

MR. S. H. PARKER said the Commission certainly did consider the claims of the gentleman who now filled the office quite as much as the office itself. They observed that the Auditor General, at all events during the last twelve months, had performed his duties well; in fact, he did not know of any other officer who had performed his duties not only more accurately, but more strictly in accordance with the law. Nor did he know that any officer could have acted more independently, even of the Governor himself.

The vote was then agreed to.

Survey Department, Item £359:

MR. STEERE asked for some information as to the item "Mineral Surveys, £50."

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said that in the Champion Bay District there was an area defined and called a mineral area, and within that area no application was approved until there was a nominal certificate given by an inspector, who had certain fees, which in all cases must be prepaid by the applicants for a license. There were cases in which, after the fee

had been paid, it had been found that no certificate could be granted, and the applicants, naturally enough perhaps, thought it very hard they should have to pay a fee and then be refused a certificate. It was now intended that in the event of the certificate being refused, the expense should be borne by the Government.

The vote was then put and passed.

Customs Department, Item £230:

Agreed to, without comment.

Postal and Telegraph Department, Item £2,564:

MR. CAREY expressed his regret that no increase was proposed for the Postmaster General, an officer whose length of service and attention to his duties justly entitled him to an increase. Other heads of departments had been included in the recommendations of the Commission, and he thought the Postmaster General's claims might also have been fairly taken into consideration. This was not the first time by a long way the claims of this officer had been brought under the attention of the Government by members of the House, and he hoped his claims would not be forgotten when the Estimates for next year were framed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the item "Conveyance of Mails throughout the colony, £950," be reduced by £450. The same item had inadvertently been shown twice, one recommendation coming from the Superintendent of Police and the other from the Postmaster General, whereas the whole amount required only amounted to £500.

The motion was agreed to, and the vote as amended put and passed.

Land Titles Department, Item £50:

Agreed to, without comment.

Medical Department, Item £461:

MR. SHENTON called attention to the first item "Surgeon Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Fremantle, £75." He understood this officer had actually been relieved of some of his most onerous duties, as medical officer for Rottnest island and as the officer to carry out the provisions of the Passenger Act. Yet they were now asked to increase his salary by £75.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the hon. member was quite correct in what he had stated. An arrangement had been made with another

medical man to undertake the duties referred to, but this had been done at the expense of reducing Dr. Barnett's salary very materially, while at the same time all the most important duties of his office as Colonial Surgeon and Surgeon Superintendent had still to be performed by him. When he surrendered a portion of his salary, he only had £25 as Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, and this proposed increase would only make it £100.

MR. SHENTON: What arrangements have been made with the new Health Officer for discharging the duties of which Dr. Barnett has been relieved?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that Dr. Barnett had surrendered £50 a year from his salary as Health Officer and £50 from his salary as the medical officer for Rottnest. In future he would be not only the Surgeon but also the Superintendent of the Asylum.

MR. STEERE, referring to the item "Incidentals, £136," said he understood this was a charge made by a private medical man for doing the work of the Colonial Surgeon at Fremantle, and, as the Audit Committee had expressed an opinion that the amount was one that could not be claimed, he should move that it be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said no doubt the Audit Committee had very properly recorded their opinion on the subject, but, looking at all the facts of the case, it appeared to His Excellency he had no choice but to come forward boldly and ask the Council for the money. It might have been smuggled in under the vote for "Miscellaneous," but he was sure hon. members would acquit the present Administration of any attempt to conceal anything connected with the public expenditure, or to shelter themselves behind any vote. The facts of the case were these: at the beginning of this year Dr. Barnett was suffering from a severe illness and obliged to be relieved from his duties by Dr. Hope, a private practitioner, but attached to the Imperial Convict Establishment, who was employed upon terms similar to those which had been previously allowed under similar circumstances. His Excellency made every endeavor to make a more economical

arrangement, but was obliged to give way to the expression of opinion of the Colonial Surgeon himself, who said that whilst Dr. Hope was performing Dr. Barnett's duties, which the latter was incapacitated from performing owing to illness, Dr. Hope was entitled to claim this amount. The Government would take care in future to prevent a repetition of this arrangement, but, under the circumstances, there was no other remedy. They could not have left an important district like Fremantle without a Colonial Surgeon or a medical officer, especially at a time when so many people were suffering from the prevailing epidemic. But he might safely say for His Excellency that he would not again admit a claim of this character.

The vote was then agreed to.

Progress reported.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 25th July, 1884.

Night Trains on Eastern Railway, Cost of running—Running Goods Trains on Sundays—School Fees received by Central Board—Berthing of Steamers at Fremantle—Message (No. 6): Intimating sanction of Secretary of State for introduction of Loan Bill—Federation Resolutions: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

NIGHT TRAINS ON THE EASTERN RAILWAY.

MR. RANDELL asked the Commissioner of Railways to lay on the table a return of the expenditure incurred in running the night trains on the Eastern Railway during the months of April, May, June, and July last; such return to show also the receipts during the same