

"2. The authenticated copy of the Standing Orders is returned herewith.
 "Government House, Perth, 1st August, 1884."

BANK HOLIDAYS BILL.

The House then went into committee for the further consideration of this bill.

Clause 5:

MR. S. H. PARKER'S motion to strike out this clause, and to substitute another clause introduced by him when the bill was previously under discussion (*vide* p. 122 *ante*) was agreed to, without comment.

Clause 6.—"It shall be lawful for the Governor in like manner from time to time, when it is made appear to the Governor in Council in any special case that in any year it is expedient that a day by this Act appointed for a bank holiday should be a bank holiday, to declare that such day shall not in such year be a bank holiday, and to appoint such other day as to the Governor in Council may seem fit to be a bank holiday instead of such first mentioned day, and thereupon the day so specially appointed shall in such year be substituted for the day so appointed by this Act."

MR. S. H. PARKER, in order to carry out the principle introduced into the preceding clause, as amended, moved that after the word "declare," in the 8th line, the following words be inserted, "by proclamation in a *Government Gazette* published not less than one week before the day appointed for such holiday." The hon. member said he was following the wording of the Victorian Act in this as in the other amendments he had brought forward. It would obviously be inconvenient to bankers and others if no notice were given beforehand of the intention of the Governor to declare a holiday.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): I may say, as the member in charge of the Bill, that I have no objection to the amendment.

The amendment was then put and passed, and the clause as amended agreed to.

The remaining clause and the schedule were agreed to without discussion.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

CUSTOMS ORDINANCE, 1860, AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill passed through committee, *sub silentio*.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 4th August, 1884.

Petition (No. 1): Platform at "Half-Way House"—Moorings, etc., at Fremantle—Separation of the North from the South—Eastern Railway: cost of Second Section—Eastern Railway: Extension to Beverley—Telephone Exchange between Perth and Fremantle—Newspapers (Registration and Libel) Bill: second reading—Consideration of Message (No. 13) re Subsidising Steam Service to Singapore—Appropriation Bill (Supplementary), 1884: second reading—Deeds of Grant Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PETITION (No. 1): PLATFORM AT "HALF-WAY HOUSE."

MR. S. H. PARKER presented a petition, praying that a platform be erected at the "Half-Way House" (known as the Albion Pleasure Garden), on the Eastern Railway between Perth and Fremantle.

The petition was received and read.

MOORINGS, &c., AT FREMANTLE.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason), replying to a question asked by Mr. Marmion on July 28th,—as to whether the anchors and chains necessary to provide accommodation for mooring vessels loading and discharging at Fremantle, for which funds had been voted by the Council two years ago, had yet been purchased or indentured for,—said the subject had engaged the serious attention of the Government, and from time to time they had been

doing the best they could in the matter. What had actually been done up to the present was to purchase one very large anchor and 105 fathoms of very heavy chain capable of securing these moorings in position. The work of placing this anchor in position would be carried out as soon as possible.

SEPARATION OF THE NORTH FROM THE SOUTH.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary,—it being evident from the tenor of the Press of the colony, and addresses delivered both in that House and before public audiences by several hon. members for the Southern districts of the colony, and mention of the same subject having been made in despatches from and to the Secretary of State, that separation of the Northern districts from the Southern districts is regarded as inevitable—whether it was not desirable that this House should be in possession of definite information on the following points:—

(a.) The basis of the calculation upon which a share of the general indebtedness of the colony at the date of separation would be borne by the Northern districts, whether on revenue or population. (b.) If the calculation be based on revenue, would it be at the date of issue of current loans, or at the date of separation, and should not the admitted over-expenditure on Southern requirements be taken into calculation. Thus, as the revenue derived from the North is to the revenue derived from the South, so should the expenditure in the North be to the expenditure in the South. (c.) What proportion, if any, of the present pension list would the North have to bear. (d.) Would civil servants in Government employ at the date of separation be entitled to rank on Northern revenues for any, and, if so, what proportion of the amount of pension claimable by them at that date? The hon. member said this was a matter of very great importance to the district which he had the honor to represent, and one that affected them very materially, not only as regards the present time, but also in time to come. The colony, they were informed, was about to contract another loan of half a million, which with our present indebtedness would bring the colony's liabilities

up to a good round sum, and, in view of a separation of the North from the South, following upon the constitutional change which was looming in the not far distance, he thought it was very desirable that the North should know what share of this indebtedness would be made a charge upon the revenues of that part of the colony. He hoped the Government would be in a position to furnish him with the information asked for; if they were not, he trusted they would obtain it from the Home Government at as early a date as possible.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the hon. member must himself see the difficulties in the way of furnishing him with any concise and definite answers to these questions, but he assured the hon. member that efforts would be made to supply him with the information which he sought. They had already telegraphed to the Government of New South Wales asking them to be good enough to inform this Government what were the conditions upon which Victoria in the first place, and subsequently Queensland, had obtained separation from the mother colony; and, as soon as the Government had any information to go upon, the hon. member's interrogations would be replied to. At the present moment he was sorry to say he had no reliable data that would assist him in framing a reply; but the hon. member should have an answer at as early a date as possible.

MR. GRANT said he would of course be glad to learn what the conditions were upon which Victoria and Queensland separated from New South Wales, but he would point out that the conditions of this colony were different; and he should like very much for the Government to extend their inquiries to the Home Government on the subject. If they would do that, he should be perfectly satisfied.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the hon. member's desires in that respect would be communicated to His Excellency.

EASTERN RAILWAY: COST OF SECOND SECTION.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Mr. C. T. Mason), at the request of the hon. member for Toodyay,

laid on the table a return giving the following information relative to the cost of the second section of the Eastern Railway: Salaries and Wages, £1,163 6s. 10d.; Wages erecting Rolling Stock, £767 0s. 6d.; Compensation, £1,056 5s.; Station and Buildings, £1,095 7s.; Rolling Stock, £11,181 12s. 8d.; Permanent Way Material, £14,939 13s. 9d.; Contract, £53,043 10s. 9d.; Deviation £6,434 6s. 6d., Creek diversion £497 6s., total £7,131 12s. 6d.; Incidentals, £5,611 11s. 1d.—Total £95,940 0s. 1d.

EASTERN RAILWAY; EXTENSION TO BEVERLEY.

MR. BURT asked the Colonial Secretary whether or not the Government intend to take the necessary steps to enable it to proceed with the extension of the Eastern Railway from York to Beverley immediately on the completion of the survey now being conducted by Mr. May; and if not, why not? When he said the "necessary steps" he meant the completion of such surveys as might be required to enable tenders to be called and the work to be proceeded with, and the introduction of a loan bill for that purpose.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he must confess that he was somewhat in a dilemma as to what reply he should give to this question. Hon. members were aware of the anxiety of the Government to prosecute this and other necessary public works, which at present had not been definitely settled upon. The hon. member would therefore see the difficulty of giving any definite answer to his question. But the hon. member might rest assured that if the railway proposals which were now before the House were adopted, this line would, as a necessary sequence, be proceeded with; and he had no hesitation in saying that the delay which would intervene before the construction of the line is commenced would be as short as practicable. He hoped the hon. member would be satisfied with that reply for the present, for he was not in a position at this moment to give the hon. member a definite answer to his question.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BETWEEN PERTH AND FREMANTLE.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL moved "That an humble address be

"presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing him of the desire of the House that a Telephone Exchange between Perth and Fremantle should be established at as early a date as possible, and praying that His Excellency will be pleased to take such steps as may be necessary to carry out the wish of the House in this respect." This matter had been brought under the attention of the Government on several occasions during the past two or three years, and, although avowedly recognising the desirability of establishing an exchange, nothing appeared to have been done in the way of providing the public with this acknowledged convenience.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he could only repeat now what he had stated before, that if the House was prepared to incur the necessary expenditure for establishing a telephone exchange, and the ways and means were forthcoming, he saw no reason why the work might not be proceeded with.

The address was then agreed to.

NEWSPAPER REGISTRATION AND LIBEL BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) in moving the second reading of a bill to amend the law of newspaper libel and to provide for the registration of newspaper proprietors, reminded the House of the way in which the press had obtained the liberty—he might almost say the perfect liberty—which at present it possessed. Originally, in England, no newspaper could be published without the Royal license or permission. Gradually that state of things was changed into a monopoly, which the Government possessed in public news and newspapers. That again gave way; but still heavy duties were levied upon newspapers, and harassing conditions were imposed upon them. These, however, eventually were removed, and now the press is practically free from all these restrictions and drawbacks; and he thought every member of the House would be of opinion that it was for the public benefit that every civilised and free community should have a free press, which might freely criticise and comment upon all matters of public

interest, including the acts of public men. He thought they would also be of opinion, all of them, that so long as the press acted on this principle, honestly and fairly, without personal ends, commenting upon public matters and public acts—so long would a free press prove of the very greatest service to the community. The bill which he was about to move that evening was based upon a recent Act passed in England, and it proceeded another step in the direction of removing difficulties from the way of a free press. An important section of the bill was the 2nd section. Hon. members would remember the maxim or the saying, which they had all heard, but which happily was now a thing of the past—"the greater the truth the greater the libel." Formerly it was considered that if a thing was a libel, or in other words defamatory, if against the personal character or position of a man,—even although it was true—it was considered as actionable and libellous. That doctrine, however, was a thing of the past, and if the truth was now published, on a fair occasion and without any vindictive motive or malice, and for the public good, the truth now might be pleaded in all actions for damages, and might also be pleaded in criminal actions or criminal prosecutions, provided it was published for the public benefit. That was to say, if what was published was a matter of public interest, and was true, and it was to the public benefit that the truth should be known, that was a perfect answer to any criminal prosecution,—if the truth so published was published without any personal or vindictive motive, otherwise it would be no answer. Until lately the law of England had been somewhat unsettled on the question of publishing reports in newspapers of the proceedings at public meetings, though, for a long time past, it had been settled that reports of debates in Parliament and the proceedings in courts of justice might be published. It was obviously for the public benefit—in fact, it was a public necessity—that the proceedings of Parliament or Legislative Councils and of the Courts of Law should be made known, although in the course of these proceedings defamatory remarks might be made upon individuals. But with regard to reports of public meetings, newspapers

had often been placed in great difficulty. It was manifestly to the interests of the public that they should know what was going on at public meetings, and reporters generally attended to report the proceedings; but it might happen that some ill-advised person might say something defamatory, and that the reporter or the publisher of the paper, in the press of business, might not exercise his discretion at the moment and cut out the particular part that might be defamatory, and the publisher be placed in the awkward position of having published a libel, and, it might be, exposed himself to troublesome proceedings. At length, however, in England the law on this point had become settled, and had found its way into an Act of Parliament, under which any report published in a newspaper of a public meeting is privileged, if the meeting was held for a lawful purpose and was open to the public, and if such report was a fair and accurate report, and honestly published for the public benefit. He thought this was a provision which would commend itself to the House. It removed, he might say, perhaps the last danger that lay in the way of the publication of an honest report of a public meeting. He came next to the 3rd section of the bill, and that again afforded a further protection to the newspaper press. Although in this colony no criminal information could be filed without the consent of the Attorney General, yet still proceedings could be taken before a magistrate which might harass a party a good deal; whereas, if the matter in the first place came before some impartial person, he might say: "No, there is no case here, or, it is a trivial affair; and, on the part of the public, I cannot consent to this prosecution being proceeded with,"—all of which the House would see was in the interests of a free press. The 4th and the 5th and 6th sections of the bill were very important sections. Hitherto it had been necessary in any proceeding against a newspaper or a person for libel that the magistrate should send the case for trial. Although the magistrate might be convinced in his own mind that when it went to a jury the jury would not listen to it, or that the Judge would throw out the case, still the magistrate was obliged to send the case for trial, the result being that a

paper might have to put up with considerable expense and be subjected to perhaps harassing proceedings. Under the provisions of the present bill the law for the first time would be this: a magistrate or the justices before whom a case of libel came would have power to deal with the case summarily, there and then. If it was a case of such a nature that in their judgment and opinion no jury would ever think of convicting, they might dismiss the case altogether, instead of sending it to another tribunal to dismiss it. On the other hand, if the court of summary jurisdiction should be of opinion that there was a case, that a libel had been published, but that it was of such a trivial character that the offence might be adequately punished by virtue of the summary powers of the court, the magistrate could deal with it there and then, and inflict a fine not exceeding £50. That again, he thought it would be admitted, was a provision, following the tendency of modern legislation, very favorable to the press. Then they came to the sections which dealt with the registration of newspapers, and which would enable anyone at once to ascertain who were the proprietors of a paper. There had been difficulties sometimes in the way of ascertaining who were the actual proprietors of newspapers,—that was to say in cases where proceedings were taken against a paper; it was impossible almost to find out who were the persons who were making a profit out of it, without resorting to legal proceedings for that purpose. The present bill would remove these difficulties, as it required a public register to be kept of the names and addresses of the proprietors of every newspaper, which register might be inspected upon application, and upon certain conditions as to fees and so on. These were the leading features of the bill, and he did not think it was necessary for him to say any more with regard to it, as he ventured to think it was a bill that would commend itself to the House.

Motion for second reading agreed to *sub silentio*.

SUBSIDY TO SINGAPORE STEAM SERVICE (MESSAGE No. 13.)

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon.

M. Fraser) moved that the House should now take into consideration the message received from His Excellency the Governor forwarding correspondence which had passed between the Government and Messrs. W. D. Moore & Co. and Messrs. Shenton & Co., relating to the London and Singapore steam services. The terms of the original agreement having been to some extent departed from, the correspondence raised the question whether the subsidies authorised by the House last session for these services were to hold good. There was also an incidental question as to the payment of pilotage dues by these steamers, and as to whether the *Natal* (which was the first steamer that came out from London to take up the Singapore service) was entitled to receive a subsidy as one of the direct steamers from England, as well as payment for the Singapore service. Under the original agreement it was contemplated that the steamers should call at Fremantle coming back from the other colonies, as well as in going to the other colonies, but, up to the present, no steamer had called on the return voyage, and this was the departure from the terms of the original agreement which His Excellency in his message referred to. With regard to the other point raised, as to whether the s.s. *Natal* was entitled to a subsidy of £150, the question was whether this steamer, which was the pioneer of the service, and which carried passengers and cargo to Fremantle from England, making Fremantle her port of departure for Singapore, should receive a subsidy as one of the direct line of steamers calling here on her way to and from England, and also a subsidy in respect of her first trip to Singapore. Hon. members had no doubt read the correspondence, and were in full possession of the facts.

MR. BROWN said that, in order to elicit discussion and that the committee might have something before it, he would move the following resolution in reply to His Excellency's message: "This Council, "having considered His Excellency's "Message No. 13, is of opinion that the "steamer '*Natal*' is not entitled to any "subsidy in consideration of her late "passage from England to Fremantle; and "that it was not intended by this Council

"that a subsidy should be paid to any steamer which, in addition to calling at Fremantle *en route* to the Eastern Colonies from England, did not also call at Fremantle on its return voyage from the colonies. Further, that it was the intention of the Council that the steamers subsidised should be exempted from pilot charges." He was perfectly aware that the resolution of last year only stated that the steamers should be exempt from harbor dues, and he had no hesitation in saying that the Government had put the proper interpretation upon the resolution. No doubt many hon. members were as ignorant as he was in considering that harbor dues included pilot dues. Of course any hon. member who thought otherwise would be perfectly at liberty to move an amendment upon this resolution.

MR. SHENTON said he did not intend to speak upon the subsidy question, but simply as to the exemption from pilotage. When this subject came before the Council last session, he thought all hon. members who spoke upon the resolution of the hon. member for Greenough were of opinion that these steamers should be placed on the same footing as Messrs. Lilly & Co's, which were exempt not only from harbor dues but also all other dues, and every hon. member who voted on the subject was under the idea that these steamers were to have the same privileges. After the arrival of the first steamer, the agents here were therefore surprised to find the Government insisting upon pilot dues being paid. He thought it was to be regretted that, upon a petty point like this, the Government did not meet the company in such a liberal spirit as they might have been expected to. It had been the desire of the House for years past that large steamers should be induced to call at Fremantle, and yet the very first steamer that called was met in this illiberal spirit by the Government of the colony. As to the subsidy being withheld unless the steamers called at Fremantle on their homeward as well as their outward voyage, he could only say that the London agents were perfectly willing that they should do so if the local agents here could offer any inducement whatever in the shape of freight for their calling here on their homeward voyage. But unfortunately, as all who had any-

thing to do with mercantile and shipping matters must know, it had been impossible for the agents to offer any inducement to these steamers to call at Fremantle on their homeward trip, and the consequence was they generally went by way of India or China. Of course, if the steamers did not call here on their homeward passage they claimed no subsidy in respect of that trip.

MR. STEERE said he had very carefully read the correspondence, and he had much pleasure in supporting the resolution of the hon. member for the Gascoyne. He quite agreed with that hon. member that the first steamer that came out here from England to take up the running between Fremantle and Singapore was not entitled to any subsidy in consideration of her passage from London to Fremantle, otherwise there would not be the amount available that ought to be available for the direct steamers. As to the steamers calling here on their return trip, no doubt that was the intention of the House at the time, but it was doubtful to his mind whether they should insist upon that now. He thought their calling here on their outward passage would be enough, and, if they did not call on their return, we paid no subsidy.

MR. MARMION said he was inclined to agree with the resolution. He thought there could be no doubt whatever that the House intended last year, when it voted this subsidy, that the steamers should call at Fremantle going and coming—no one who read the resolution could entertain any doubt upon that point. It had been said that no inducement had been offered them to call here on their return trip, but he would remind the committee that the inducement offered was the £150 subsidy. If there had been sufficient other inducement, there would have been no necessity for offering a subsidy. No doubt it would be an advantage if these steamers did call at Fremantle on their homeward voyage; persons desirous of visiting Europe might possibly prefer taking this direct route, and he thought it might be arranged, by aid of the telegraph, for the steamers to take wool and other products, which would be cheaper than by the P. and O. steamers. He did not think, however, it would be well to lay

much stress upon this matter; and, granting the advantages which the colony derived from the service in other ways, and as these steamers might be the precursors of other steamers, he thought the House might deal with them in a liberal spirit.

MR. SHENTON moved that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again on August 11th.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

APPROPRIATION BILL (SUPPLEMENTARY), 1884.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said he was not aware it needed any preface on his part. The details of the various appropriations were before hon. members in the Supplementary Estimates which they had already voted.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

DEEDS OF GRANT BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman), in moving the second reading of a Bill to simplify the procedure in amending deeds of grant which contain an erroneous description of boundaries, said the bill, a small one, was intended to remedy an inconvenience that had been felt in several cases when it had been discovered, after deeds of grant had been issued by the Crown, that the boundaries of the land surveyed differed from the boundaries as described in the deed. There were two Acts on this subject—the 8th Vic., No. 9, which dealt with the boundaries of town lots, and which enacted that, after the boundaries had been ascertained and finally marked out by the Surveyor General and laid before the Governor-in-Council, they are to be entered in a Record Book, and the boundaries there described were to be taken in all courts of law as the true boundaries of the land. The other Act was the 4th and 5th Vic. No. 20, which related to country lands, and no provision was made in that Act for rectifying any erroneous description of the boundaries of such lands contained in the deed of grant. The procedure which had now to be adopted

in amending deeds of grant was found to be very cumbrous—that was, in the case of town lands, and the present bill was brought in to simplify that procedure, not only as regards town lands, but also country lands, as to which, curiously enough, no provision was made in the existing Act for rectifying any error in the boundaries as described in the deed. What the bill proposed to do was this: where the true boundaries of any lands had been officially adjusted and they were found to differ from those given in the deed of grant issued previous to such adjustment, it would be lawful for the Surveyor General to endorse on the back of the deed the true boundaries. He would then send the deed so endorsed to the Registrar of Deeds, whose duty it would be to sign a memorandum of such endorsement on the enrolled copy of the deed. This would be a simple way of doing what under the existing procedure was rather cumbrous. The 3rd clause of the bill gave power to the Surveyor General, when a Crown grant was lost, to give a certified copy of the entry in the Record Book, showing the true boundaries of the land, and forward the same to the Registrar, who would mark it in the same way as the original deed, and this certified copy would be taken as evidence in any court of law upon the question of a disputed boundary. It was possible that, in committee, they might add another clause, carrying out a suggestion which had been made since the bill was in print by a gentleman practically acquainted with this matter. But these were the provisions of the bill as it now stood.

MR. BURT said he should like to point out, and to draw the Attorney General's attention to the fact, that the bill merely dealt with any difference that might be discovered between adjusted boundaries and the boundaries contained in deeds of grant. But differences might also be discovered between adjusted boundaries and the boundaries described, not in a deed of grant from the Crown, but in the certificate of title, which superseded the Crown grant, and there did not appear to be any machinery provided for adjusting such differences. He did not think the Transfer of Land Act contained any provision by which that might be done. He merely men-

tioned the matter, in order that the hon. and learned gentleman might give his attention to the point.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said "The Transfer of Land Act, 1874," contained a provision to this effect: "In case it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that any certificate of title or instrument has been issued in error, or contains any misdescription of land or of boundaries," and so on,—it shall be lawful for the Commissioner to rectify the error, and any person refusing to deliver up a certificate for correction might be arrested and brought before the Supreme Court. He thought this clause would meet the case referred to by the hon. member, and he might say that it was not overlooked when the present bill was under consideration.

The motion for the second reading was then put and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 6th August, 1884.

Breach of Mail Contract—Branch Railway to Perth Racecourse—Police inquiries into character of certain classes—Law as to Deserters from American or foreign ships—Local Court at Bridgetown—Plans for new Government Offices, Perth—Vote for Albany Town Hall—Message (No. 17): The Measles Epidemic: Sanitary Precautions; Land Quarantine Bill—Railway Platform at Halfway House (Albion Hotel)—Kimberley Sugar Lands, Reservation from Sale: adjourned debate—Gold Prospecting and Machinery for Crushing: adjourned debate—Appropriation Bill (Supplementary), 1884: in committee—Customs Ordinance, 1880, Amendment Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

BREACH OF MAIL CONTRACT.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Colonial Sec-

retary if the Government was aware that the s.s. "Lubra," advertised to carry contract mails, &c., to Bunbury and Vasse, did not leave the mails at either place, when *en route* to Albany on Friday, 1st inst.; and if the Government intend to enforce the penalty for breach of contract?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) replied:—It has been reported that such was the case. The irregularity occurred through the remissness of the purser, who will, as the Agent informs the Postmaster General, be severely dealt with for this gross dereliction of duty. The Government does not intend to enforce the penalty for breach of contract.

BRANCH LINE OF RAILWAY TO PERTH

RACECOURSE.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways if a survey for a line of railway from the Eastern Railway to the Swan River, opposite the Racecourse, had been made? If so, the length and probable cost of the construction of such line.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said: Yes, a trial survey had been made. The length of the line would be about 65 chains, and the probable cost £2,000.

POLICE INQUIRIES INTO CHARACTER OF CERTAIN CLASSES.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary whether the Government had issued any instructions to the Police, or to any other persons, directing them to make secret, or other inquiries, into the conduct, character, politics, and position in life, or otherwise, of any class or classes of the inhabitants of this colony; if so, whether he would be pleased to lay a copy of such instructions on the table of the House.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that in order to furnish certain information required by the Secretary of State, the Superintendent of Police had been collecting some statistics; but the papers, being confidential, could not be produced.