

After some debate, the motion was agreed to.

ELECTION PETITIONS BILL.

Third Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

WINES, BEER, AND SPIRIT SALE ACT, 1872, AMENDMENT BILL.

Recommittal.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved that the Bill be recommitted for the further consideration of clause 7.

In Committee.

Clause 7—

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved that after the word "section," in the first line, the words "of the said recited Act" be inserted.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Bill again reported, with a further amendment.

CREWS OF COASTING VESSELS DISCIPLINE BILL.

Third Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Council adjourned at 2.15 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 17th December, 1875.

Cart Licensing Act: Infringement—Medical Officer and Magistrate, Melbourne District—Fremantle Lodge of Freemasons Bill: select committee report—Supreme Court Expenses—Church Organs: Refund of Duty: in committee—Roman Catholic Orphanages: Message from the Governor, No. 2: in committee—Estimates: in committee—Adjournment—Districts Roads Act Amendment Bill: second reading and committee—Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872, Amendment Bill: third reading.

The ACTING SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 p.m.

PRAYERS.

CART LICENSING ACT: INFRINGEMENT.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved that this Council does not approve of the instructions given to the police, ordering them not to take proceedings against persons infringing the Cart Licensing Act.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) believed that an order something to that effect had been issued to the police, but they were told at the same time that if they noticed any infraction of the law they should acquaint the local Roads Board thereof and offer themselves as witnesses to the board prosecutor.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said it was only that afternoon that he had first heard of such instructions being issued, and he at once ascertained the nature thereof. What gave rise to the whole question was the superintendent of police doubting whether the police were legally empowered to interfere with persons infringing the Cart Licensing Act. The question was referred by him to the law officer of the Crown, whose opinion was that, where there was a local Roads Board, the 52nd section of the Police Ordinance was virtually repealed, at all events so far as laying his information went. But, notwithstanding that opinion, instructions had been issued to the resident magistrates of the various districts that proceedings might be taken by constables under the Police Ordinance against any offender infringing the Act, and he believed that the police had acted generally upon these instructions. The Government would now take further steps in the matter, and if any irregularity existed, it should be remedied.

Mr. STEERE expressed his satisfaction with this assurance, and asked for leave to withdraw his motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MEDICAL OFFICER AND MAGISTRATE, MELBOURNE DISTRICT.

Mr. PADBURY, in accordance with notice, asked the Acting Colonial Secretary whether it was the intention of the Government to make any provision for a doctor and magistrate for the Melbourne district.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) replied that arrangements had been made for periodical visits to the Melbourne district by the resident magistrate of Toodyay which, it was

hoped, would meet the requirements of the district without incurring a considerable expenditure in providing for the salary of a resident specially for this district. Also, a considerable amount would have to be voted if a medical officer were appointed to the district, as from the widely scattered nature of the population, his private practice would bring him but little. It was hoped that the communication by telegraph would considerably lessen the want of a resident medical officer.

FREMANTLE LODGE OF FREEMASONS BILL.

Select Committee Report.

Mr. BURT brought up the report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill.

The report was received and read by the Clerk.

SUPREME COURT EXPENSES.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) placed upon the table the returns asked for by Mr. Steere on the 15th December.

CHURCH ORGANS: REFUND OF DUTY.

In Committee.

Mr. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, asking him to place on the Estimates the sum of £85, being the amount of duty paid on the two organs lately imported for St. George's Church, Perth, and Wesley Church, Perth.

Question put and passed.

ROMAN CATHOLIC ORPHANAGES.

Message from the Governor—No. 2.

In Committee.

After a pause of some minutes, the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said that as no hon. member seemed inclined to express any opinion on the question before the House, he would move, "That this Council concurs in the view expressed by His Excellency the Governor as shown in the printed correspondence, namely that, strictly speaking, the inmates of the two orphanages were not entitled to the gratuitous attendance of the Colonial Surgeon, or to medicines from the Colonial Hospital." His Excellency, however, had no present intention of denying medicines from the hospital to the children referred to in the correspondence, and Dr. Waylen had expressed his intention

to attend them as an act of kindness as heretofore. But neither His Excellency nor the Colonial Surgeon could concede the claim put forward by the managers of the R.C. orphanage to such medical attendance or medicines as a right.

Mr. SHENTON asked if a similar claim had not been put forward by the managers of the Protestant orphanage.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) replied that the conductors of that institution did not claim medical attendance and medicines for the inmates at the public expense as a right to which they were entitled; but were satisfied with the intimation that there was no present intention of withholding such attendance and medicines. The managers of the R.C. orphanage, however, took higher ground, and maintained that by virtue of an alleged verbal agreement—of which no official record was extant—between the managing committee of that institution and the late Governor Hampton, the inmates of the orphanages were entitled to gratuitous medical attendance and to medicines at public expense.

Mr. STEERE said he had carefully read the correspondence laid on the table relating to this subject, and he concurred in the view adopted by His Excellency the Governor, that, in the absence of any official record of the alleged verbal agreement and in the face of the distinct statement of the late Colonial Surgeon that he received no instructions to visit the orphans after their transfer to the care of the Sisters of Mercy, and that consequently he considered it no part of his official duty to do so; in the face of these circumstances, he repeated, he concurred in the opinion arrived at by His Excellency, namely, that strictly speaking the children were not entitled to gratuitous medical attendance, or to medicines from the Colonial Hospital. Taking into consideration that Dr. Waylen, in the most handsome manner, had expressed his intention to continue his attendance, as an act of charity, as heretofore, and that His Excellency had likewise intimated that he did not at present propose to deny medicines from the Colonial Hospital to the inmates of the orphanages, he thought that the managers should have been satisfied, and should not have demanded as a right that which they had no right to.

Mr. MARMION maintained that the hon. member for Wellington could not have arrived at the conclusion he had done by any logical deduction arising out of the correspondence before the House. He had read the correspondence very carefully and it appeared to him that it was a very difficult matter indeed to

establish argumentatively the position taken up by the Government with regard to this question. If there remained any doubt as to the right of the orphanages in this regard, he thought all the argument was in favor of meeting such a claim. This view was supported by the fact that for many years after the transfer of the children from the Poor House to the charge of the Sisters of Mercy, the late Colonial Surgeon visited them as well as the inmates of the Protestant orphanage, officially, and they were supplied with medicines gratuitously from the Colonial Hospital. No question ever arose as to their right to such attendance and medicines until the officer now holding the position of Colonial Surgeon undertook the duties. He was, however, quite ready to accord—and he was sure he echoed the sentiments of the managers of the Roman Catholic orphanage when he said so—he was quite prepared to accord every credit to Dr. Waylen for his kindness in agreeing to continue his attendance gratuitously, in the face of the view adopted by the Government, and, apparently, endorsed by that House, namely, that the orphanages had no claim to such attendance.

Question put and passed.

ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

Item: His Excellency the Governor, £254 9s. 2.

Item: Legislative Council, £400.

Item: Colonial Secretary, £1,172.

Items agreed to.

Item: Treasurer, £480.

Mr. BURT called attention to the comparatively small salary paid to the chief clerk in the Treasury Department (£250), which seemed to him altogether disproportionate with the very responsible position held by that officer. If the chief clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office was worth £400 a year, he certainly thought the chief clerk in the Treasury was entitled to more than £250.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said that no one in that House was prepared to speak more highly of the admirably efficient manner in which the chief clerk in the Treasury Department discharged his duties, and he could only add that the suggestion of the hon. member Mr. Burt would receive the attention of the Government.

Mr. STEERE thought it would be advisable that the existing system of classification in the

various departments of the Public Service should be revised altogether. It was evident it was not now adhered to, but, on the contrary, set aside when deemed convenient or expedient. He thought a system of that nature was very unfair, and consequently very injurious to the interests of the service.

Mr. PADBURY hoped that if there was to be any increase of salaries, junior clerks and subordinate grades of officers should participate. He would commence at the bottom of the ladder and not at the top. Sitting there to vote increase of salaries was no doubt very pleasant work, but hon. members should bear in mind that there were such nice little sums wanted as £26,000 for the Geraldton and Northampton railway; £18,000 for the Eucla telegraph; £10,000 for roads and bridges; £700 for immigration; £9,000 for interest on public loans; making a total of £70,000, in addition to the ordinary expenditure.

After some further discussion, the item was agreed to.

Item: Land and Works, £8,500 10s.

Lands and Works Department:
Lands—Deputy Surveyor General, £350; two surveyors, at £300 each; one draftsman, £300; one do., £250; one first-class clerk and keeper of records, £300; one third-class clerk, £110; forage and travelling allowances for Surveyor General and three surveyors, at £150 each; contingencies—contract surveying, labor, and incidental expenses, £4,500; total £7,010.
Works—Commissioner, £100; engineer, £450; clerk of works, £350; one third-class clerk, £160; keeper of public clocks, £20; keeper of public garden, £87 10s.; forage and travelling allowance for engineer, £150; forage allowance to clerk of works, £50; lodging allowance, caretaker public garden, £13; contingencies—incidental expenses, £100.—Total, £1,480 10s.

Mr. PADBURY said there was rather a big jump here. He noticed that forage allowance for three surveyors, at £150 each, was provided for, and he was rather curious to know why this should be deemed necessary. He understood that most of the survey work of the colony was now done by contract, and he did not see why any more forage allowance should be voted than such as would suffice for one inspecting surveyor, whose duty it would be to see that the contracting surveyors performed their work properly.

Mr. SHENTON: As it is now proposed to have a Deputy Surveyor General, surely the services of three other staff surveyors will not be required in the field, now that the work is done by contract.

Mr. STEERE considered the total amount of this vote highly unsatisfactory, and for this reason:—there was a large amount of money placed at the disposal of the Surveyor General, for contingent expenses, of which the Council received no account. In his report on Crown lands and surveys for the year 1873, that officer had given the House an abstract of the survey work performed under agreement, by contract, and the sums paid for each specified survey; but no such abstract was embodied in the report for last year, presented to the Council this session. He did not think it right that such a return should have been omitted. There was a common impression abroad, an impression in which he himself shared, that the Survey Office had now become a sort of refuge for the destitute. When any young fellow whom a paternal Government considered necessary to provide for could find nothing else to do elsewhere, a home was found for him in the Survey Department. Since the reorganisation of that department, the bulk of the survey work was done by contract, which required inspecting. But this work of inspection was all behind, and it entailed great hardship upon those surveyors who had duly performed a contract, and who, through no fault of their own, are kept without their money until the work was inspected and passed. On the other hand, if they were paid before their work was inspected, that was an equally reprehensible practice. In fact, if this sort of thing continued, the sooner the better contract surveying was put an end to. That system had recently been found to be an utter failure in the northern parts of New Zealand, where it was discovered that nearly all the work had been so unsatisfactorily performed that it had to be done over again. He hoped that before the House voted the item of £2,500, set down in the Estimates for contingencies, in connection with the Lands Department, some explanation would be afforded hon. members as to how it was proposed such a large sum of money should be expended.

Mr. BICKLEY said that when it was proposed last year that the Commissioner of Crown Lands should also discharge the duties of Commissioner of Works at an increase of £100 per annum in his salary, he had understood that the arrangement would not have entailed any additional expense on the Survey Department. Instead of that he now found provision made in the Estimates for the appointment of a Deputy Surveyor General at a salary of £350 a year. He would like to know if there had been any increase of work in the Survey Department to warrant the increased

expenditure now contemplated in the various items now before the Committee, and whether there had been any improvement whatever in the manner in which public works had been supervised since the Surveyor General had received £100 a year as Commissioner of Works. He thought that many of the items proposed in connection with the department now under review were altogether unwarrantable. When the department was reorganised two or three years ago, the House was then assured that contract surveying would be cheaper and more efficient than the system previously obtaining; but judging from the Estimates now before the House, such did not appear to be the case. He thought the public funds should not be squandered in this way, and that the whole schedule under the head of "Lands and Works" called for the strictest scrutiny, and should be combated from beginning to end.

After some remarks from Mr. T. BURGESS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RANDELL, Mr. SHENTON, and Mr. MARMION,

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) said,—Sir, as nearly every hon. member in the House has given expression to his views with regard to the department which I have the honor to preside over, I now rise for the purpose of affording, as I hope, the explanation necessary to satisfy the Committee upon the various items referred to in the schedule under this head; and if in doing so I shall have to trespass somewhat severely on the time and patience of the House, I trust that hon. members will bear with me while I endeavor to show that there is no foundation whatever for any expression of distrust or disapprobation as to the manner in which the services connected with this department have been conducted and carried out. I challenge the fullest and most searching inquiry into the whole working of the department, and court a thorough investigation into every item embraced in the schedule now under the consideration of the Committee. My aim and object has ever been to afford every possible information in connection with the whole working of the survey service, and that information I am now ready and willing to give, either to the House in Committee or to individual members of this Council. Before proceeding to review the various items in detail, I would ask the indulgence of the House while I refer to the coarse manner in which the hon. member Mr. Bickley has thought fit to make certain allegations reflecting on myself personally, in my official capacity—allegations which I have no hesitation in saying could only have emanated from a mind so conditioned as that of the hon. member I have alluded to, and which

I merely resent with the contemptuousness they deserve. Were I disposed to assume, for the nonce, the role of a *Bombastes Furioso*, I might reply to the hon. member's strictures in these words—"I deny his allegations, and I defy the *alligator*." (Laughter.) But as I have no intention of assuming that role, I will not,—in the depth of my anguish at having incurred the hon. member's displeasure,—even ask the House to bear with me one moment while, with the view of relieving my sorrowful feelings, I vainly struggle to drop a "crocodile's tear" over the melancholy fact. I will not say what a blow this is. I will not say how much it tries me. I can endure as well as another man. What I have to hope is, like Mr. Pecksniff, that this terrible infliction may not "impair my freshness, nor contract my pinions." (Laughter.) With regard to what fell from the hon. member from Wellington, it is true that in my published report on Crown lands and surveys for last year in the abstract of surveys executed by surveyors employed under agreements at fixed rates, the cost of such surveys was omitted. The omission, however, was not an oversight; it arose in a great measure from the fact that some of the surveys undertaken were incomplete at the time the report was prepared, and their exact cost could not be set set down. But so far, Sir, from wishing to withhold any information which this House may think necessary to possess, I shall be most happy to submit all the records and accounts of my department for the investigation or information of any hon. member of this Council. Hon. members must be aware that all the payments made for contract survey are fixed in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by order of the Governor in the *Government Gazette* soon after the system first came into operation, and copies of which I believe now lie on the Table of this House.

Every payment made has been in accordance with the scale, which has been strictly adhered to when intended and applicable. When, four years ago, I reorganised the department under my control and initiated the system of contract survey, or in other words, that of payment by results, there were particular reasons why, at the time, I thought it advisable and expedient to introduce such a system, and I believe the majority of hon. members were entirely in accord with me, and considered that it would be attended with many advantages over the then existing organisation. Nor have I up to the present time any reason at all to be dissatisfied with the results; the work, I believe, has been fairly done,—and honestly done. Time will demonstrate whether what I say is right or wrong.

Many serious difficulties have arisen; a large amount of arrears had to be overtaken in the department, and I believe that every individual connected with my office, from myself down to the lowest junior officer, have performed, or at any rate, strenuously endeavored to perform, our work in the manner in which it should be performed. I say that no department in the Public Service is more zealously guarded over. I have no desire to sound my own trumpet in the ears of this Council, but I say this to hon. members, I challenge them to come into my office and enquire into its working, and I have no hesitation in saying that, with the staff at my command, the work is as efficiently done as in any office in any of the other colonies that I have knowledge of. Notwithstanding the increase of work which increased settlement necessarily entails, and the disproportionately small means to overtake it, the work of the Surveyor General's office has never been in such an advanced state as it is at the present moment. An immense amount of reconnaissances have been made, and the whole country from here to Port Gregory, for several miles inland, has been carefully mapped from a survey made by triangulation, assisted by celestial observations,—the land survey party working cooperatively with the Admiralty survey parties. A considerable amount of survey has also been overtaken in the remote north-west settlement, the basis having here been laid for a reconnaissance survey of the whole of that important district now becoming extensively settled by stock and sheep-owners. A large portion of the Talling district has also been surveyed, and I am now in a position to adjust the boundaries of various runs which heretofore was found impracticable, and by which the revenue has largely benefited. The same applies to the country eastward of York, and of the Beaufort and Arthur rivers. A large party is now engaged on the south coast making a reconnaissance survey of the whole of the seaward belt of country between Albany and Eucla; the result of all which will be that the relative position of the principal natural features of tens of thousands of square miles of country will be exactly fixed and clearly shown. When the immense area thus surveyed, extending from Nickol Bay on the north to Eucla on the south-east, embracing more than 2,000 miles of coast, is taken into consideration, and the slender means at disposal for carrying out the work is borne in mind, I think hon. members will admit that the strength of the department has been and is stretched to its utmost limit of tension. And now, Sir, having offered these general remarks upon the first division of my department as a

whole, I now propose, with leave of the Committee, to review the various items contained in the schedule under consideration, and I will take them *seriatim*. With regard to the first item, that of Deputy Surveyor General, £350, every hon. member is aware upon whom it is proposed to bestow this office, and I apprehend there is no one here, and there is no one in the colony, who will object to the appointment, which, after all, is not a new one. Mr. Forrest merely changes his title, and gets an extra £50 a year. Hon. members are aware that, for the last few years, Mr. Forrest's services have been lost to the department, so far as ordinary routine work is concerned. Of course he has, in the meantime, been performing other work, and rendering valuable services to the colony—services which have won him the esteem and admiration of every colonist, but at the same time the department has suffered, and somewhat materially, by his absence. This, however, is not likely to occur again, and I am quite satisfied that with regard to the departmental duties that will now devolve upon him he will do his work well, and in a manner that will entitle him to as much credit as he has won for himself in the cause of exploration. The next item on the Estimates is, "two surveyors, at £300 each." The hon. member for Wellington doubted the existence of one or both of these officers, and insinuated that they were mere shadow men. Well, one of them is Mr. Price, who was appointed a year or two ago, and who is now in charge of the party engaged in making a reconnaissance survey of the country bordering on the south coast, through which the Eucla telegraph line will pass, and he also has charge of the construction of that line, now being carried out by contract. The other surveyor is not at the present on the staff, but has been generally employed by the department at the same salary. This is Mr. Brooking, who has been on behalf of the colonial Government working cooperatively with Captain Archdeacon, of the Admiralty survey, and will shortly be engaged in making the triangulation of another section of the country. This branch of work, I may add parenthetically, was never undertaken on any system in this colony before I took charge of the department, and many thought that, in a country so thickly wooded as this is, it could not have been carried out. It is the most useful branch of surveying, and one which, in the interests of science as well as of the colony, I should be sorry if some means were not placed at my disposal to continue it. There is no change in the two next items on the Estimates, the two draftsmen being the same as last year. There is a slight increase of £50 in

the salary of the first-class clerk, who has lost a registrarship he previously held, and who now has undertaken the additional duties of keeper of records. Bearing in mind the responsible position which this gentleman holds, being the head officer in the Lands Office—an office which when I first came here had no existence, as contradistinguished from the Survey Office,—the Surveyor General was merely the examiner and reported to the Governor,—I think no one will cavil at this increase. It is in some degree due to the perseverance and assiduous attention and industry of this officer that I have been able to carry out the work of the office, and I think no one will begrudge a very trifling increase of salary which he well deserves, independently of his having undertaken additional duties. The only alteration in the next item—third-class clerk—is the usual annual rate of increase, to which, according to the rules of the service, he is entitled. I now come to the item of "allowances," which seems to have stirred up the feelings of hon. members more than anything else. With regard to my own travelling and forage allowance, I may state that when I accepted the appointment of Surveyor General I did so on the understanding that I was to have forage allowed me for two horses, and my travelling expenses paid. In 1871, when the department was reorganised, I accepted in lieu thereof a lump sum by which the revenue greatly gained; this includes all the expenses I have to incur in the discharge of the multifarious duties of my office. The Deputy Surveyor General, to whom it is proposed to give the same allowance, will have to travel probably more than myself, and must necessarily be provided with the means to pay the expenses incurred in so travelling. The other two surveyors to whom forage and travelling allowances are provided are the two officers already named—Messrs. Price and Brooking,—and no one will deny that they are entitled to such allowances, looking at the nature of the duties they have to perform. Next on the list comes the item of contingencies, £4,500. In 1871, when recommending a departmental reorganisation, which was adopted by this House and carried out, I fixed the minimum sum at which the scheme could be carried out at £1,000 a year less than that granted by this Council, and this too scanty sum has not in any year been increased since. During the subsequent three years I have striven, in addition to paying off heavy sums for compensation to retired officers, to carry out the work of the department with these slender means, and I need hardly say that I have had the utmost difficulty,—speaking departmentally, I may say

that I have failed to make both ends meet and pay my way. When this sum, less the £1,000 I have alluded to, was first fixed, a prisoner of the Convict Department was attached to each surveyor in the field as a probationer, and while we were then only paying from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a day, with rations, for labor, we are now paying quite a hundred per cent. more; that is double: so that in the item of labor alone there is a very considerable increase. With regard to the item "contract surveying" included under the head of contingencies, I shall be very happy to show any hon. member who will favor me with a visit at my office, the result of the working of this system, the amount of work done and of payments made, and I have no hesitation in stating that, under it, we have had more work done during the last three years than during any similar time in preceding years. We have made reconnaissances of tens of thousands of square miles, triangulated systematically some thousands of square miles and every year adding to our stock of knowledge of the natural features and physical geography of the country. I had hoped long before this to have commenced a colonial map on a comprehensive scale, but I find it impossible to do so without obtaining a great deal more information than we yet possess, and more means of obtaining that information. To that end, I have been in correspondence for some months past with surveyors in New South Wales, Victoria, and the other colonies, including New Zealand, and I am happy to state that I have several applications from persons prepared to accept contract surveys at fixed rates, if constant work is guaranteed and the rates are sufficient inducement. With reference to the allegation that the Survey Office is crowded with useless boys and inexperienced youths, I deny it altogether, and emphatically. In justice to myself, in justice to the public, and in justice to the young men themselves, I must say that they are all thoroughly competent to discharge the respective duties devolving upon them. I pride myself, and I think I have reason for so doing, on having the square men in square holes, and the round men in round holes—a mathematical arrangement which I commend to the favorable consideration of the hon. member Mr. Bickley, and which is the only way to get work properly done. Any further explanation required with regard to the Lands and Survey branches, I shall be only too happy to afford the House, but I will now proceed to offer one or two remarks with reference to the items under the head of Works. With regard to the first item, which affects myself personally, that of Commissioner, hon. members should understand

that when I undertook the charge of public work, at the beginning of this year, I did so, accepting the present arrangement as only a temporary expedient, on the understanding that permanent subordinates would—as necessary—be appointed to carry out the surveillance of all the departmental details. I am, however, quite prepared to defend all my actions in connection with this branch of my duties. The next item is that of "Engineer, at £450." With regard to this item I may state that the Government have been in correspondence with a professional gentleman understood to be competent to undertake the duties of this office, and there is every reason to be satisfied with his testimonials, and, should the salary proposed be approved, there will be probably no difficulty in securing his services. The other items under the head of salaries call for no detailed remarks. As to the £150 set down for forage and travelling allowances for engineer, I need hardly say that as the duties of that official will lead him from one end of the colony to the other, his forage and travelling allowance has been fixed at the same rate as the allowances of the surveyors. The only other item is that of incidental expenses, £100, which is as low an estimate as could possibly be made, inasmuch as out of this sum the pay of a youth, as draftsman, has to be met. Hon. members will understand that this office of works was not sought by me; the duties were imposed upon me by a vote of this House; and His Excellency the Governor and His Lordship the Secretary of State, while concurring in the desirability of amalgamating two offices previously distinct have expressed an opinion that the additional duties and additional heavy expenses should not be imposed upon me without some additional remuneration. I now have to represent, in addition to my own original department, the Department of Public Works, both in the Executive and the Legislative Councils. This is the first session in which I have appeared in that position in this House, and I must remind hon. members that if the work of the Public Service is to be carried on efficiently and satisfactorily, such grants of money must be voted for that purpose as the responsible administrative head of a department deems absolutely necessary, such responsible head being of course answerable to His Excellency the Governor and to this House for the expenditure of such funds. Sir, I will not trespass on the patience of the Committee any longer. Any further information relating to these items which any hon. member may require, I say again, I shall be happy to afford. I have no objection whatever to undergo the process technically termed "being hauled over the

coals," but I do object, and I think it an insult to any member of this hon. House, to be alluded to in the vulgar and disrespectful manner in which I have been personally alluded to by the hon. member Mr. Bickley.

Mr. BICKLEY said the hon. gentleman who had just sat down had really afforded the House no explanation as regards the division of the £4,500 set down for contingencies, further than a very general explanation indeed, one certainly with which an auditor of accounts would not be at all satisfied. Nor had any light been thrown upon the manner in which the vote of last year for "contingencies" (£3,050) had been expended, beyond that the money was paid for contract surveys generally; but if he (Mr. Bickley) was rightly informed a great portion of the vote was expended in the hon. gentleman's own office upon men who are not shown at all in these Estimates nor actually required in the office. With regard to the hon. gentleman's forage and travelling allowance, if, as he himself said, he had, when the department was reorganised, accepted a lump sum in lieu thereof, why was forage allowance allowed him now? A session or two ago a sum of £100 a year was voted to the hon. gentleman to remunerate him for his trouble in looking after public works; but in the explanation he had just made to the Committee it had not been shown that any actual increase of work had fallen to his share. Nor could he see that there was any prospective increase of work connected with the Lands and Works Department. He therefore failed to understand why the country should be saddled with an engineer at £450 a year, and a Deputy Surveyor General with £350 a year, each drawing forage and travelling allowance at the rate of £150 a year more.

Mr. CROWTHER believed that, although the Survey Department was not altogether as good as it might be, it had considerably improved under its present organisation. With regard to the contemplated appointment of a Deputy Surveyor General, even supposing it were a new appointment—which it was not—he did not believe that any reasonable man, nor woman (laughter) in this colony would object to it, when it was borne in mind upon whom it was proposed to confer the appointment—Mr. John Forrest, whose achievements in the cause of exploration had won him the admiration of the world. (Cheers). With reference to the explanation of the hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands he considered it was on the whole very satisfactory. It was shown in the abstract of revenue for last year that the receipts from land had increased 50 per cent, since the introduction of the new regulations, a fact which not only

showed that the progress of settlement had been satisfactory, but that the work of the Survey Department had correspondingly increased. As however there appeared to be some objection on the part of some hon. members to the vote now under discussion, he would move, with the view of removing such objection, that the vote be referred to a select committee, who should be empowered to inquire into the working of the two departments—Lands and Works—and report thereon to the House, such committee to consist of Mr. Steere, Mr. Brown, Mr. T. Burges, Mr. Randell, and Mr. Burt.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) said he would be only too happy to afford every possible information to the committee, and to facilitate the inquiry by every means within his power.

The motion was agreed to.

Item: Auditor General, £720.

Item agreed to.

Item: Registry Office, £950.

This item gave rise to very severe animadversions,—apropos of the recent appointment of Mr. James as Commissioner of Titles and Mr. Jauncey as Registrar—upon the practice of filling appointments in the Public Service from extra-colonial sources. The item, after a good deal of discussion,—in the course of which nearly every member who spoke commented more or less severely upon the practice of ignoring the claims of colonists to lucrative appointments in the Public Service—was agreed to.

Item agreed to.

Item: Customs Department, £3,086.

Mr. MARMION expressed the pleasure he felt that the claims of the Collector of Customs at Fremantle to an increase of salary had at last been recognised by the Government.

Mr. SHENTON proposed that the pay of the first-class clerk and the gauger in this department be increased. Several hon. members concurred in the recommendation, and a hope was expressed that the matter would receive the favorable consideration of the Government.

The claims of the tidewaiter at Geraldton to an increase of salary, and of the master of the revenue cutter to half pay, were also discussed, and resolved in the affirmative.

Progress reported, and leave obtained to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the Council do now adjourn.

Question put, "that the Council now adjourn," upon which a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes	8
Noes	8
Ayes.	Noes.
The Hon. H. H. Hocking	Mr. Randell
Mr. Burt	Mr. Crowther
Mr. Hickley	Mr. Shenton
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Padbury
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Munger
Mr. T. Burges	Mr. Brown
Mr. Glyde	Mr. Gale
The Hon. A. O'Grady	Mr. Steere (Teller.)
Lefroy (Teller.)	

The voting being equal, the CHAIRMAN gave his casting vote with the Noes.

Question thus negatived.

DISTRICT ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading and Committee.

Mr. BROWN moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee without amendment.

WINES, BEER, AND SPIRIT SALE ACT, 1872, AMENDMENT BILL.

Third Reading.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Council adjourned at 12 o'clock midnight.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Monday, 20th December, 1875.

Woongong River Bridge—Offenders Apprehension Bill: first reading—Bridges at West Guildford and Gingin Brook: Standing Orders suspension: in committee—Bridge over the Bulgarup Brook: in committee—Church Organs: Refund of Duty—Municipal Institutions' Act, 1871, Amendment Bill: order discharged—High School Bill: second reading: in committee—Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Bill: recommittal: in committee—District Roads Act Amendment Bill: third reading.

The ACTING SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 p.m.

PRAYERS.

WOONGONG RIVER BRIDGE.

Mr. HAMERSLEY, in accordance with notice, moved that the Council resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration an Address to be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that a special sum of at least £100 be placed on the Estimates for the re-erection or repair of the bridge over the Woongong River.

After some debate,

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

OFFENDERS APPREHENSION BILL.

First Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking), in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide more effectually for the apprehension of offenders.

The Bill was read a first time.

BRIDGES AT WEST GUILDFORD AND GINGIN BROOK.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

Mr. PADBURY moved the suspension of Standing Order No. 42.

Question put and passed.

In Committee.

Mr. PADBURY moved that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor requesting him to place on the Estimates a sum of £400 towards the construction of a bridge over the Swan Piver at West Guildford, and also a sum of £50 for the repair of the bridge over the Gingin Brook at its junction with the Moore River.

Question put and passed.

BRIDGE OVER THE BULGARUP BROOK.

In Committee.

Mr. GALE moved that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that a sum of £100 be placed on the Estimates to erect a bridge over the Bulgarup Brook.

Question put and negatived.

CHURCH ORGANS: REFUND OF DUTY.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) announced to the House that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to accede to the request contained in the Address asking him to place the sum of £85 on the Estimates, being the