

Law relating to the Police in Western Australia,' they find that on Thursday, January 21st, when in Committee on the said Bill, an amendment was proposed, and carried, in clause 96, to strike out sub-clause 18, which amendment was not included in the schedule of amendments forwarded to the Legislative Council in Message No. 17.

"The Conference recommends that the Legislative Council give their concurrence to the amendment which was omitted from the schedule in Message No. 17, viz., 'To strike out sub-clause 18, in clause 96, and that the Clerk of the Parliaments be authorised by writing under the hands of the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to make the necessary correction in the Bill before presenting it to His Excellency the Administrator for Her Majesty's assent.'"

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the Report be adopted.

Question—put and passed.

Subsequently, the following Message was received from the Legislative Council:

"The Legislative Council informs the Legislative Assembly that it has this day passed the following Resolution:—

'That the Council concurs in the amendment omitted from the schedule of amendments to the Police Bill, forwarded by the Assembly in its Message number 17—namely, to strike out sub-clause 18 in clause 96—and desires the President, in writing under his hand, to authorise the Clerk of Parliaments to make the necessary correction in the Bill before presenting it to His Excellency the Administrator for Her Majesty's assent.'

"Legislative Council Chamber, 11th March, 1892."

"HANSARD" DEBATES: REPORTING AND PRINTING OF.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): I beg to move "That the report of the Joint Standing Orders Committee of the Legislature, on the question of the reporting and printing of the *Hansard* debates, be agreed to." This report has been laid on the table for a week or ten

days, and no doubt members have made themselves cognisant with it. I do not think at this moment I need read it; it relates to the staff of the reporters for each House and the organisation of that staff.

Motion put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at five minutes past 4 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Council,

Monday, 14th March, 1892.

Game Bill: committee's report—Appropriation Bill: second reading: in committee—Fremantle Harbor Works: Legislative Assembly's message on—Geraldton-Mullewa Railway: Legislative Assembly's message on—King George's Sound Garrison Discipline Bill: second reading: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Bart.) took the chair at 8 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

GAME BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I have to move that the report of the committee on message No. 38 from the Legislative Assembly be adopted.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I rise to move that the following words be added: "Provided that the Legislative Assembly agree to the insertion of the words 'last mentioned' before 'person' in the sixth line, and 'first mentioned' before 'person' in the seventh line of the said clause."

Question—put and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I have now to move the second reading of this bill, which is the usual measure Parliament is asked to

pass every year so that the Government may be provided with the means of carrying on the business of the country. Hon. members will see by the schedule the different heads under which it is proposed to spend the money, and I can only assure the House that due economy and every care will be exercised by the Government with the sums they are entrusted with.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I have no wish to take any exception to the bill, the details of which we are probably precluded from debating. What I wish to point out, however, is that it is usual in most of the other colonies to reserve the third reading of this bill to the last stage of the session. I will not dilate upon the reasons given for this step being adopted. The Colonial Secretary will see that it is not in any spirit of hostility that I mention this matter, but it is of importance that we should establish the practice that prevails elsewhere here from the first. I, therefore, express the hope that the third reading will be taken as late as possible in the session as convenience will allow.

THE PRESIDENT: The bill must be sent back in time to enable the Speaker to take it to His Excellency.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): There is no intention on the part of the Government to press this bill through the House. We are aware of the privileges of this House, and I quite recognise the force of the hon. member's remarks, but as it is probable this session of Parliament will not last much longer, it is necessary to push the bill as far forward as possible.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: I would call attention to the fact that the bill has only been in our hands a few minutes. There are some items I can see I would like to ask—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): You cannot touch any item of it.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: I do not say we can; but if we wish to look into them we are afforded very little time to do it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I would point out to the hon. member that he will have ample time. This House has no power to interfere with any item within the schedule.

We have to pass the bill as a whole or reject it altogether. Most of us have had an opportunity of seeing what has been going on in another place, and we are thus acquainted with nearly every item of importance.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

The Bill was then considered in committee and agreed to without amendment and reported.

FREMANTLE HARBOR WORKS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I have now to move that the following resolution transmitted by the Legislative Assembly be agreed to—
“That so much out of the sum available for Harbor Works at Fremantle, including extension of jetty and improvements to approaches, on the Loan Act, 1891, as may be necessary for the complete construction of the North breakwater from Rous Head, as shown on plan P. W. D. 1468, estimated to cost £88,000, be expended, and the balance be expended in excavations in the river mouth, with a view of eventually completing the scheme shown on the plan.” He said: Hon. members will, no doubt, have carefully looked into this plan, No. 1468 P.W.D., which shows the North breakwater from Rous Head as proposed by the Engineer-in-Chief. I think we may congratulate ourselves that we now see some way of settling this vexed question of harbor works at Fremantle. The original proposal of the Government was the opening up of Owen Anchorage. From information then in our possession it was thought that by the expenditure of a reasonable amount of money, a channel might be dredged through Success Bank, so as to enable large steamers to make use of the anchorage inside. That scheme was sent home for the consideration of Sir John Coode, and he expressed the opinion that it might be carried out. During the interval the Engineer-in-Chief looked up the question of opening up the mouth of the river. That gentleman has had a large experience in marine undertakings. Some of the largest harbor schemes designed by Sir John Coode have been carried out by

Mr. O'Connor, and he has had good opportunities of going thoroughly into the question of sand-drift along coasts. We all know the bugbear that presented itself to Sir John Coode against the opening up of the river was this sand-drift. He had been informed by Mr. Wardell most positively that sand-travel existed, but it has been considered by Mr. O'Connor that Mr. Wardell's opinion does not carry much weight, as he was not a marine engineer but an architect. Unfortunately this was the only information Sir John Coode could obtain, there being no proper means taken by the Government to prove whether a sand drift existed or not. Mr. O'Connor expressed very great doubts as to its existence. One of the points which raised these doubts was that the different banks in the harbor had not altered since they were surveyed half a century ago, and therefore, there could be very little sand travel on this coast. Hon. members are aware that this question was well debated in the Assembly, and this House was asked to join with that body in a joint Select Committee, and I think the thanks of both Houses of Parliament are due to that committee for the trouble they took, because in their different sittings they brought out a large amount of valuable information, which will the better enable hon. members to arrive at a conclusion regarding these works. The Government proposal now is to build a north breakwater about 1,000 yards long from Rous Head. This will cost £88,000, and when completed it will not only protect the mouth of the river, but it will certainly protect the new jetty at Fremantle from the north and north-west winds. When the wind goes to the south of north-west the force is broken by Rottnest. The heavy seas are from the north and north-west, and this mole will break them from the new jetty. It will prove of great benefit to the port of Fremantle, because, until the South mole is built, it will provide what is most required now—protection to the ships lying at the jetty during the winter months. The water inside will range from 26 feet to 31 feet, giving an average of five fathoms, or 30 feet of water. This will accommodate very large ships indeed. The vessels that now come here never draw over 24 feet of water, and as a rule their draught is 23 feet.

In case these steamers come in, in very heavy weather, they could run in under the breakwater; hence it will be of very great advantage not only to large steamers, but to small steamers and sailing vessels. When this work is provided for, there will be left £25,000 or £30,000 at the disposal of the Engineer-in-Chief for commencing the opening of the river, and the rock that will be excavated from the bar of the river will be used in the construction of the breakwater. I think that the expenditure of this money at the mouth of the river will enable an estimate to be formed as to what the whole cost of the harbor improvements will be, and I think it will be found that the Engineer-in-Chief will have no difficulty in carrying out the work. I would point out to hon. members that the construction of this breakwater will take time, and if our colony progresses, as it has done in the last two or three years, I think when this money is expended, we shall be in a position to place further sums at the disposal of the Engineer-in-Chief, with which to carry on the work. Again there will be a large amount of land reclaimed by the sale of which a large sum of money will be placed at the disposal of the Government. If this scheme is passed and affirmed by this House, there is nothing to prevent the work being commenced at once. There need be no delay, because we shall not now have to refer the matter to England.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: What will be commenced at once?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I understand that we can commence work at once, as there is nothing to get ready. The plans are prepared and there should be no difficulty in the matter. Hon. members will notice that the plan is designed so that the work can be extended, if at any future time it is thought desirable to do so. This North breakwater can be carried out another quarter of a mile into 40 feet of water, and that will afford safe anchorage for the largest steamers now afloat. Those who have been to Colombo must have noticed that there the South breakwater has not yet been built, and that even the North one is not completed. If our river improvements are carried out, of course we shall have to construct the South mole so that vessels may have

an entrance in; but there is plenty of time in which to consider this. This is the scheme that the Government now lay before this House. I may point out that a great many difficulties of past years as to opening up rivers and disposing of rocky bars have been removed by scientific improvements. Sir John Coode has stated that the cost of dredging is now much less than when he first reported. For removing rock the Lobnitz crusher has been found most economical. The sand pump dredger is another great improvement. I think it will be found that with the sand pump dredger and this Lobnitz crusher, the cost of our harbor improvements will be reduced to about one-half what was estimated in 1877. We shall have the advantage of all these new appliances. This is our scheme, and I now ask hon. members to approve of it.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution, the more so as the scheme is one which I have always had the greatest faith in—a scheme about which I have had my share of abuse, inasmuch as it was said that I had set myself up in opposition to one of the greatest marine engineers—Sir John Coode. I advised in accordance with my duty to the best of my ability, and I am glad to find that my view has been at last adopted. I advised that we should take advantage of the river which we possess at Fremantle. Sir John Coode thought otherwise, as he said that small vessels might only be brought up. There have been such great improvements in the machinery for operations of this kind, that now, what was a difficult matter, is comparatively easy. I feel perfectly certain this work can be carried out, and that it will prove of the greatest advantage to Fremantle, and to the colony. It will prove in fact the only work that will be of advantage to the commercial interests of Fremantle. There will be a very large amount of land reclaimed and the proceeds of the sale of it will go a very long way towards the cost of this work. There is one question I would like to ask, and I do not ask it in any spirit of criticism. The hon. the Colonial Secretary says that £88,000 will be required for this breakwater, leaving £25,000 for the river improvements. This only makes £113,000,

whereas £125,000 is the amount voted. Where has the remaining £12,000 gone to?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. G. SHENTON): I said from £20,000 to £30,000 would be available for the river.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: It has gone on the jetty.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: That was not authorised to be made.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. G. SHENTON): The law officers of the Crown advised that the additions to the jetty were not a new work, and it was decided to go on with it at once. The Engineer-in-Chief raised the point that it was not a new work, and the Attorney General agreed with him.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: It strikes me that this work should have been voted by this House, because under the Audit Act it is a part of the harbor works, and therefore ought to be approved of by Parliament.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. G. SHENTON): In all new works the Government have come down and asked for the approval of Parliament, but the Fremantle jetty was a work already commenced. The work that is now being done is only an extension of the plans already laid before Parliament.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: There was no authority for the expenditure of the money.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. G. SHENTON): It was considered that not being a new work the Government had power to deal with it.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Sir Thomas Campbell, I rise to swell the chorus of congratulation which meets the decision of the Government to adopt the opinion of the joint committee of both houses with regard to these plans, and so complete is my satisfaction that I am loth to add any single sentence, lest it should jar on the prevailing sentiment of this House. There are, however, one or two matters which I would like to draw the attention of the Colonial Secretary to. The first is to the plan on the table, which describes not only the North breakwater mole, but also the South mole, and further a large amount of reclamation on both sides of the river. Then I wish to draw attention to the exact wording of the resolution

which commits us, not only to the £150,000 placed on the Loan Schedule, and of which sum only about £125,000 is now available, but to the entire work, and to every detail of the plan which is now laid before us. It will be observed that the message sent to us from the Legislative Assembly is somewhat sweeping. It says: "That so much out of the sum available for harbor works at Fremantle, including extension of jetty and improvements to approaches in the Loan Act, 1891, as may be necessary for the complete construction of the North breakwater from Rous Head as shown on plan P.W.D. 1468, estimated to cost £88,000, be expended, and that the balance be expended in excavations in the river mouth." That is clear sailing, but the message goes a step further. It says: "With a view of eventually completing the scheme shown on the same plan." Is this the £500,000 scheme or the £800,000 scheme?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. G. Shenton): This is the scheme contemplated to cost when complete £800,000.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: This is the scheme which is laid before us, and which we are asked to accept this evening, and this is the very important point I wish to bring before the House. We are thus virtually committing ourselves to the sum of £800,000, to be spent in carrying out the work laid down on the chart. I, for one, think that is rather a large committal in advance. We are willing to agree to the expenditure of £150,000 on the North Breakwater and the excavation, so far as it will go; but I ask the House to consider whether it is wise to go further than that and commit ourselves so far ahead. What I wish to have the assurance of the Colonial Secretary on, is whether, after the £150,000 is expended, the House will be consulted before any further expenditure is made; otherwise we shall be committing ourselves very much further than we ought to do. Let us have the assurance of the Colonial Secretary distinctly that no further expenditure will be incurred outside the Loan Schedule without full particulars of the proposed expenditure being placed before us, in the same full and courteous manner as in the present case.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. G. Shenton): I mentioned that after

this amount was expended it would be for the House to vote any extra sums that would be required. All we ask for now is for authority to spend the balance on the Loan Schedule. When that is done the Government will have to come down and ask for further sums, and of course estimates will have to be laid on the table showing what has been done, and what is proposed to be done for the sum of money asked for. The Engineer-in-Chief says this work will take ten years to do. He states that this amount will build the North Breakwater, and that another £125,000 will build the South Breakwater and open the bar, and thus will give a passage to vessels drawing 18ft. Then there will be something coming in from land reclamation. However, as I have just said, all we ask for now is for authority to expend the balance of the money on the Loan Schedule.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: That is an eminently satisfactory assurance, and, of course, gives us all we desire.

Question—put and passed.

GERALDTON-MULLEWA RAILWAY.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. G. Shenton): I have now to move that the following resolution transmitted by the Legislative Assembly be agreed with. "That in the event of the £100,000 provided in the Loan Act, 1891, for a Railway from Geraldton to Mullewa, proving insufficient for the completion of the work, this House is of opinion that the Government should proceed with the work; and that provision be afterwards made for any additional funds that may be necessary and required, not exceeding £50,000." He said: When the bill for the construction of this railway was before this House it was mentioned that the amount provided in the Loan Schedule was £100,000. At that time the surveys had not been completed, but now the Engineer-in-Chief is in possession of them, and it is found that the country between the Walkaway line and the Greenough River presents such considerable engineering difficulties that it is found impossible to carry out the work for the £100,000. The question the Government had to decide was, whether they should only expend this £100,000,

taking the Railway as far as the money would go, or come down and ask both Houses of Parliament whether, if it were found necessary to spend a further £50,000 they would authorise the Government to do so. I may mention that if the Railway were carried as far as the money originally voted would go, it would be of no use whatever, for it would stop on the edge of the sand-plain, and the settlers on the Murchison would be just in the same position as they are at the present time. When we remember the wonderful discoveries of gold in that district, it is a matter of serious consideration as to whether the Council should not empower the Government to spend this extra £50,000, or such less amount as may be necessary to complete the work. Of course it will be for the Government to decide, if this vote is passed, how this money is to be provided—whether out of current revenue, or by savings out of other works in the Loan Schedule. What I wish the House to understand is that the Government do not consider it advisable to go on with the work unless they have the money now asked for at their disposal, because, taking the railway to the Greenough River only, will be of no benefit to the district.

THE HON. R. E. BUSH: I am very glad to give my hearty support to this resolution. I am pleased that the Government have come forward so boldly and asked for such a considerable increase over the sum they originally thought sufficient for this important line of railway. I say it is important, because I fully believe that when completed it will be one of the best paying lines in the colony.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: Question.

THE HON. R. E. BUSH: Of course I refer only to Government lines. All I trust is that the Government will push this work forward as fast as possible. Great gold discoveries have been made in the district, and I think this railway is more urgently required than probably any other railway in the colony. Therefore, I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I have no wish to oppose the hon. member in regard to this wonderful paying line. We will leave out the question of paying or otherwise because there is one line be-

longing to the Government which has always paid, and is paying 5 per cent. on its original cost; that is the line from Cossack to Roebourne. I only hope that this railway to Mullewa will be an equally remunerative concern. There is one thing which the Colonial Secretary said which I do not quite understand. He said it was a question whether we should take this £50,000 out of current revenue, or from savings from other items on the Loan Schedule. I am curious to know which other items the Government are going to make savings on, for it strikes me that many of the other works are in the same box as this. For my part I have always thought that we have begun at the wrong end. We should have started with this and the Yilgarn line and left the Bunbury railway until last. However, the wrong cannot now be undone, and we must make the best of it.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: Whenever the savings may come from, let me say that I think the completion of this railway will bring a new era of prosperity to those settlers in the North who have suffered so much of late, and I can only express the hope that this resolution will be passed and the railway proceeded with as quickly as possible.

THE PRESIDENT: In reference to the interjection of the Hon. Mr. Wright, I would point out that in the House of Commons when they say "question," it means that the person addressing the House is not speaking to the question.

Question—put and passed.

KING GEORGE'S SOUND GARRISON DISCIPLINE BILL.

SECOND READING: ADJOURNED DEBATE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I may state that since this bill was before the House on Friday we have received a telegram from the other colonies asking us to agree to one or two verbal amendments in the bill. I would ask whether I should give notice of them, or wait till we go into committee.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no necessity for the hon. member to give notice.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): The principal amendment is to add, after the word "troops," the words, "for the time being for the garrison at King George's Sound whether

raised in South Australia or elsewhere." I would point out that some of the instructors might come from New South Wales or even Queensland, and the balance from South Australia. At all events some non-commissioned officers may come from the other colonies, and therefore it is considered necessary to add these words.

THE HON. E. HAMERSLEY: From what I gather from the statement of the Colonial Secretary this bill is a very desirable one, and I shall have great pleasure in supporting it.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I regret I cannot agree to this bill at all, for with all due deference I think it will prove of no avail and likely to be very mischievous to the colony. We are to introduce the legislation of South Australia, and we do not find the South Australian Act embodied in our bill. I should like to know how my hon. friend, sitting as a magistrate of this colony, could act under this bill, if a case were to come before him, unless he had a copy of the South Australian Act. I do not know if the hon. member, Mr. Hamersley, has read that Act, but if he has he will find certain conditions which render it inoperative in this colony, for in certain cases the offenders must be taken before two magistrates of South Australia. Throughout we find references to South Australia, and I think we should be committing an act of folly if we passed this bill as it stands, especially seeing that the guns are not here, and that the men or troops are not here. I hope, before these guns are in position, we shall not require the assistance of South Australia at all. I believe Western Australia is competent to garrison this fortress without reference to South Australia or any other place. We can get in Western Australia 28 as good men as we can from the other colonies. I move this bill be read this day six months.

THE HON. R. E. BUSH: I think the remarks of the last speaker carry a certain amount of weight. If, as he says, this country cannot raise 28 men fit to make good the defence of this fortress, I consider the colony is not worth fortifications at all.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Hon. members have evidently not read the conditions under

which the port of Albany is to be fortified. By the way they have spoken they seem to consider that this colony is paying all the cost of it, and that, therefore, the men should be raised in this colony. Let me point out that this colony is only paying one-fourth of the cost of garrisoning King George's Sound, the other three-fourths being paid by the other colonies. The reason why it has been decided that the men shall be taken from the other colonies is that when this matter first came forward, we suggested that we should get the artillerymen from England, but it was pointed out to us by General Tulloch that the guns which are coming out are of a new type; that the drill is constantly changing; and that it is necessary the men should be changed often. Men from England, it must be remembered, would be under the seven years' service system, and they would have to be kept during the seven years in the colony, and I may point out that under the present conditions of warfare, men who might be very well up in gun drill to-day, in another seven years would be very rusty indeed. In the other colonies officers are constantly going to England to go through a long course of gunnery instruction. The Government, therefore, thought it better to agree to the representations made to them from the other colonies. The hon. member says we do not want these men, because the guns are not here. We believe the guns are in the "Echuca," and will be here very shortly. The men will have to be here when the guns arrive in order that they may be tested and tried before they are handed over. If the Council throws out this bill they will simply be breaking the engagement this colony has made with the other colonies. This bill has been brought in, not by ourselves, but at the request of the Premiers of the other colonies. The draft of it, I may say, has been telegraphed word for word to Sir Samuel Griffith by the Attorney General. Sir Samuel Griffith is acknowledged to be the best draftsman in Australia, and his opinion is worth a great deal more than that of laymen here. Sir Samuel Griffith telegraphed back, "In reply to your telegram I think bill in its present form exactly meets the case and in the best way." That is the opinion of Sir Samuel

Griffith, that the bill in its present form exactly meets the case. Apart from this the bill is only a temporary measure. When the Federal Council meets it is intended to bring in a bill to deal with garrisons, that will no doubt be general throughout the colonies, and which will deal with the defences at King George's Sound, and also at Thursday Island.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: When will the Federal Council meet?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Next year. We only ask that this bill shall be passed, so that the men who come here will be liable to the military law under which they enlisted; but in other respects they will be amenable to the laws of this colony. All this bill seeks to give is power to deal with any breach of military discipline, and I think we shall be acting without due courtesy to the other colonies if we throw it out, when the Premiers I have referred to have asked us to pass it in the way proposed.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I have to express my regret that the questions which troubled my mind, and which I was careful to put as plainly as possible to the Colonial Secretary, have received no reply whatever from the hon. member. The more the House inquires into the matter, the more it will realise how insuperable these objections are. I may say with confidence, and I say it with a full knowledge of its effect, that the hon. the Colonial Secretary will find it impossible to give any explanation or assurance as regards the difficulties I have raised. I have put the questions to the Colonial Secretary and also to other members of the Government without getting a satisfactory reply. The hon. the Colonial Secretary has invoked the name of Sir Samuel Griffith. I yield to no one in the respect I have for that gentleman. He is undoubtedly the ablest draftsman in the whole of the colonies, but I say further, that if Sir Samuel Griffith had had this bill before him as it is, he would have cut off his hand before he sent a telegraphic message to say that it met the difficulty.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): The bill was telegraphed in full.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I understood the bill was not telegraph-

ed in full, and I think if the hon. the Colonial Secretary will make inquiries he will find that only clause 1 was telegraphed. I believe that Sir Samuel Griffith thought that not only were we adopting the South Australian Act, but that we were also adapting it. I would like my hon. friend to take any section at random and explain how it can be made workable. This bill says it is the law of Western Australia that is to apply. If it is our law the words "Governor," the words "Police Magistrate," the words "Attorney General," the word "police," all the words in fact, with the single exception of the words "Local Court of Adelaide," must be interpreted as applying to West Australia, and not to South Australia. But the whole scope of the bill shows that this cannot be intended, and it is not intended. The law is clear that immediately men land in this colony, they become amenable to West Australian law, although in this case, by a curious paradox, it is said they will be South Australian soldiers and West Australian citizens. They are to be domiciled here, but they are to be subject to certain regulations in force in South Australia, and we are to give them the right of appeal to the Local Court of Adelaide. I challenge any hon. member to deny this. It is not the Attorney General of West Australia, but the Attorney General of South Australia who is to take the necessary action under the various clauses of the bill, and we are to give an appeal to the law courts of South Australia. If we do this we certainly take a liberty with the Parliament of that colony, and even then the fact of our passing it will have no effect, unless it is ratified by the Parliament of the neighboring colony referred to. It is impossible for us, for instance, to say that we will give a right of appeal to the courts of Victoria, and give effect to it without the sanction of the Victorian Parliament. I cannot for one moment believe that Sir Samuel Griffith had this before him when he sent the telegram which he did. I could make innumerable points on this matter, and I am astonished that when the Colonial Secretary could not answer the objections I raised, he did not say so and withdraw the bill. The hon. the Colonial Secretary has stated that the effect of this

amendment being carried will be to break an engagement with the other colonies. If I thought that that would be the effect, or that the withdrawal of the bill would deprive Albany of its garrison, I should be the last to support it,—but is there any need for this precipitancy? Why should we be hurried into taking a step which we should regret all our lives. As the Hon. Mr. Wright has pointed out, these forts are hardly complete yet. The guns are not ready, and it will be months before they are.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Where does this information come from?

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: It is common report.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): Common report is not always correct.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I would point out that as soon as the Federal Council meets, a bill can be introduced to settle the question of these defences. That body will sit shortly—the hon. the Colonial Secretary says in next January. I trust between this and next session the Government will have looked into this matter, and that they will, when we next meet, be prepared to give effect to the universal desire of this House, and place a West Australian force in charge of the fortifications at Albany. There are many other remarkable provisions in this bill. The Colonial Secretary proposes to add an amendment to the effect that not only troops raised in South Australia, but also troops raised elsewhere should be subject to this Act. That will have the effect of placing not only South Australian troops, but Victorian troops who may be residing within this colony, under South Australian law. In other words they are to be expatriated and to be handed to another colony, with the right of appeal to the courts of another colony. I do trust the Government will wait and consider this question during the recess, which will only be a matter of a few months, and next session bring in a measure which will the better meet the views of this House.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY: I must say this matter presents greater difficulties and I cannot see daylight through it. It seems to me we shall lay ourselves open to very great difficulty, but at

the same time I sympathise with the position of the Government, who, I am satisfied, are trying to do what is right. I certainly think it would be advisable to postpone this matter for a short time, more especially as it is proposed to add this amendment. It seems to me that by this amendment we should be legislating not only for this colony, but also for New South Wales, Queensland, and the other colonies. We have no power to deal with these other colonies, and I do not see how we are to legislate for them. If we want to place the control of these troops in the hands of another colony, the best way would be to set aside a certain portion of territory, and I do not think any hon. member of this House would agree to do that.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: The bill, to my mind, presents very great difficulties indeed. I thought so when it was first introduced into the House. It is unnecessary for me to traverse all the objections to the bill that have already been pointed out, but they are very serious objections. There is something that is not at all satisfactory, and I think it would be wise on the part of the Government to at present withdraw the bill, and look further into the surroundings, so that something of a more acceptable form for the control of the troops stationed at Albany may be proposed. I sympathise with the Government, but I think it is the duty of this House to be cautious, and when they see difficulties surrounding a bill they should not hurriedly pass it. The measure requires considerable alteration, and I shall certainly vote for the amendment.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: I move the adjournment of the debate.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I rise to second the motion for the adjournment. I would only say that we must all recognise that this is a most important measure, but the references to South Australia, as pointed out, render it unfitted to our purposes. In its present form the bill is altogether unfitted to our requirements.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: This matter has been adjourned before, and I trust the majority of the House will oppose the further adjournment of the debate. The Colonial Secretary comes forward with no answer to our inquiries,

but with a statement that we are to bring Victoria and Queensland under the provisions of the South Australian Act. I really see no pressing need to carry this bill through this session.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: I think it a most important matter, and it is necessary that we should not throw out this bill without careful consideration. We should have time to consult the law authorities, in order to see whether some amendments cannot be made in it in committee that will overcome the difficulties raised; and the adjournment will give time to the Government to prepare these amendments. It is necessary that the forts at King George's Sound should have men capable of raising the guns on the carriages. We must have competent men for this work, and, therefore, I think it would be a most dangerous thing to cast out this bill at once. I believe these guns will arrive in the colony shortly, and unless we have competent men to put them in position they will be left on the sea beach. I simply move the adjournment of the debate in order that time may be given to those who have the conduct of this bill to consult; and I think it might be well that some of us should also, in the meantime, consult together on this matter. When we go into committee we shall have a chance of amending this bill, and of adding the South Australian bill as a schedule to it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I have to support the adjournment of the debate. I have quoted the opinion of Sir Samuel Griffith, and I strongly oppose the proposition that we should drop the bill now. I think the Hon. Mr. Wright is not considering the best interests of the colony in proposing the amendment he has to a Government bill, when it is officially stated that it is important it should be passed.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I oppose altogether this motion for adjournment. The hon. the Colonial Secretary has had ample time to consider this bill, and he had every opportunity to consult with his colleagues on the subject.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: I shall support the motion for the adjournment of the debate. This matter of the fortification of King George's Sound is a most important one, and I think it would be

only proper for this House to give the Government a little more time to look into the points that have been raised by such authorities as the Hon. Mr. Hackett and the Hon. Mr. Wright. It is a fact that this bill is surrounded with great difficulties. When these are brought before the Government they may possibly see some way of introducing a bill of a different character, and removing from it these objectionable conditions, which have been so ably brought before us by hon. members of this House.

THE HON. R. E. BUSH: I shall support this objection to the adjournment, if only for this reason: This debate was adjourned last Friday, and the Government come here to-day without any explanation or answer to the arguments of hon. members.

THE HON. G. GLYDE: I shall support the adjournment in order to give the Government time to see whether some alteration cannot be made in the bill to enable it to pass this session.

THE PRESIDENT: I think hon. members will see that although it is not very likely that the Government will bring in amendments to meet the objections that have been raised, still, under the circumstances, it is only reasonable that an opportunity should be given them of doing so. The hon. the Colonial Secretary says the bill is absolutely required. Hon. members have urged that the bill will be unworkable, and it appears to me that that will be found to be the case; but if the Government have time to consider the matter, they may be able to give some further information as to whether they can go on with it or not. I think it as well for hon. members to give the Government an opportunity of further considering the matter by allowing the debate to be adjourned.

Question—put and passed.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House at ten minutes to 9 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 15th March, at 3 o'clock, p.m.
