

always crying out "Give us this and give us that." He thought we ought to be thankful that we had got on so well under our present form of Government. It was very plain, though, that Responsible Government must come very soon—perhaps within three years,—and he thought the people of the Colony ought to know beforehand what it would cost them.

MR. S. H. PARKER said there was one other point upon which he would like His Excellency the Administrator to address the Secretary of State, in connection with this question, and that was, whether the Home Government would consider it necessary that we should have a bicameral constitution, or whether they would let us go on with one chamber. This was an important question, but it was one upon which he did not express any opinion that evening. He thought, however, it was highly desirable we should ascertain the views of the Home Government on the subject—whether they will insist upon our having both an Upper and a Lower House. He agreed with the hon. member for Williams that it was scarcely politic to let the Secretary of State imagine that we were afraid of losing the North; but this question of separation was nothing new. His own opinion was that the Home Government was anxious to get rid of the Colony. The Secretary of State once said to him, himself, when he had the honor of an interview with him: "Why don't you take the Colony yourselves?" But, at the same time, he led him to believe that we should not get the whole of it. If, however, the Secretary of State should find that we have no intention of submitting to a partition of the Colony, he may probably let us have the whole; and he hoped His Excellency the Administrator would point out to the Home Government that we had made up our minds on this point, and that, unless we carried it, we had no intention of relieving the Home Government of their responsibility in connection with the administration of the Colony; that we should continue to be a thorn in the side of every successive Secretary of State, unless the Home Government consented to give us, what after all we were honestly entitled to,—full control over our Northern territory, discovered and

colonised at our own expense; and also the management of our Crown Lands.

The motion was then put, and carried *nem con.*

NATIVE CONVICTIONS VALIDITY BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 19th April, 1883.

Revenue Returns for Kimberley District.—The steamer *Otray's* absence and Messrs. Lilly & Co's. contract —Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

REVENUE RETURNS FOR KIMBERLEY DISTRICT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) laid on the Table the return asked for the previous day of Mr. Marmion, relating to the territorial revenue returns for the Kimberley District, so far as the returns could then be made up. From these it appeared that, in 1881, the amount paid for leases in the district was £3,086 10s.; in 1882, £15,934 15s.; in 1883, £19,716 10s.—Total £38,737 15s. The amount due on incomplete applications was £160. Nothing had been received for purchased lands. Mr. C. D. Price, in a memorandum annexed to the return, stated that the total number of Kimberley leases on the 21st December, 1882, was 422, containing 47,928,080 acres. Out of this number, some, it was expected, might be left unpaid for the current year, but, at the time the memorandum was written, the Treasury had not furnished the Survey Office with the unpaid list.

STEAMER "OTWAYS" ABSENCE AND
MESSRS. LILLY & Co.'s CONTRACT.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, "Whether the *Otway* had not exceeded "the limit of 40 days allowed for executing repairs, as provided in the "16th clause of Messrs. Lilly & Co.'s "tender?" As a matter of fact, there could be no doubt on the subject, for she left Fremantle for Melbourne on the 24th December last, and was not expected to arrive at Albany until the beginning of next month. But what he wished to know was whether the contractors were all this time drawing their full subsidy of £7,500 a year?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) replied as follows: "The "*Otway* has been away from this coast for "a period considerably exceeding forty "days. For the information of the hon. "member I may state the circumstances, "so far as they are disclosed by information in my office. Following on an "address to the Governor passed by the "Legislative Council on the 15th September last, which had reference to "Select Committee's Report (No. 1A 10, "1882), advocating extension of steam "communication to Roebuck Bay or some "other port of Kimberley District, in "December last, negotiations were entered upon with Messrs. Lilly & Co., for "a periodical steam service to Beagle "Bay, and the owners proposed that the "*Otway* should go to Melbourne to be "lengthened before entering on this service, for which she would be then well "adapted, and was to be used. On 17th "January a two years agreement was "made by the Government for such extended service. The *Otway* was to have "sailed in March for Beagle Bay, but the "*Macedon* was substituted, sailed on the "21st, and was wrecked the same day; "the *Rob Roy* was, however, sent up by "special agreement leaving Fremantle "on the 31st March. The *Otway* is to "be at Albany, King George's Sound, "from Melbourne and Adelaide, to bring "on mails and passengers due at the "Sound on the 1st of May, and will then "be again placed in the coastal service." The contractors, in reality, have been the victims of circumstances.

MR. SHENTON said that might be so, but that was no reason why the

people of this Colony should be paying £7,500 a year for a service from which they derived no benefit. It was all very well to say that Messrs. Lilly & Co. were paying for the extra overland trips occasioned by the derangement of the coastal service, but the fact of the matter was, this overland communication was a dead loss to the Colony, as the Government had been obliged to hire horses, right and left, in order to keep up this extra service, so that, in reality, we were paying about £9000 a year for our postal and coastal service, and yet we had only one steamer on the coast. That might be a very fine thing for Messrs. Lilly & Co., but it was a very poor bargain for the Colony. It was arrangements of this kind which caused so much feeling of irritation amongst all classes against the Government, and it was much to be regretted they should ever occur.

The matter then dropped.

PROROGATION.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE ADMINISTRATOR shortly afterwards entered the Council Chamber, and delivered the following Speech:

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF
"THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

"It remains for me to thank you for "your attendance, as also, for the earnestness with which you have assisted the "Government in respect of the matters "which have been submitted for your "consideration.

"I have given assent, in the name of "Her Most Gracious Majesty, to the Act "which you have passed to give validity "to certain Summary Convictions of "Aboriginal Natives of the Colony; and "it will be my duty to report, as in that "behalf required, the necessity which "exists for bringing the Act into immediate operation.

"With respect to what has been called "the Native Difficulty, I am of opinion, "with many of you, that further legislation will be required; but I am not "prepared to admit that all the difficulties exist to which reference has been "made.

"By reason of your good offices an immediate difficulty has been provided "for, and in view of the early arrival of "a new Governor, I trust you will agree

"with me, that it would not be discreet
"for me to interfere further in a matter
"which has reference to general legisla-
"tion.

"I have to acknowledge your Address,
"whereby you ask me to ascertain, at
"the earliest possible opportunity, from
"Her Majesty's Secretary of State for
"the Colonies, the terms and conditions
"upon which Responsible Government
"will be granted to Western Australia.

"It will be my duty to forward your
"request, by the first opportunity to the
"Secretary of State. I need hardly re-
"mind the Council, however, that the

"information so to be applied for points
"to a decision which relates clearly and
"exclusively to Imperial policy.

"I have noticed the Resolution which
"you have passed in favour of the ap-
"pointment of a second Judge, and the
"subject is one to which I shall invite
"the attention of the Secretary of State.

"I now prorogue this Council to Wed-
"nesday, the 4th of July next."

HIS EXCELLENCY, having handed
a copy of the Speech to Mr. Speaker,
retired from the Council Chamber, and
the Session closed.