

any other way. I think before anything is done in this direction we should first have some systematic line of action laid down, and have the opinion of a military expert to guide us, and point out the best plan for properly defending the place. The time will come when we shall have to do so, and I think we would do well to take time by the forelock; but let us proceed on some systematic line of action. If we cannot afford to do all that is necessary at once, let us do it by degrees.

MR. RICHARDSON: I agree very much with the hon. member for the North that this is altogether a leap in the dark we are asked to take. We have no reliable information before us, to guide us as to the cost of proper defence works; and, I think, before we commit ourselves to this or any other scheme, we should get the opinion of some authority competent to advise us upon the question of fortification. We may spend thousands of pounds, and then find ourselves as unprotected, practically, as we are now. I think we ought to wait before committing ourselves to this expenditure.

MR. MARMION moved the adjournment of the debate.

Agreed to.

Debate adjourned.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 2nd April, 1889.

Electoral Bill, 1889: 1st reading—Geraldton Jetty: Sums paid to Sir John Coode in connection with Harbor Works—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

ELECTORAL BILL, 1889.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) introduced and moved the first reading of a Bill to provide for the Registration of certain Electors.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

GERALDTON JETTY EXTENSION, AND SUMS PAID TO SIR JOHN COODE.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying he would be pleased to lay on the table—

1. A Return showing all moneys paid to Sir John Coode in connection with Harbor Works in this colony.

2. If such sums paid were authorised by the Government of this colony?

3. If the Crown Agents have ever disbursed moneys belonging to this colony without the authority of the Government; if so, in what instances and by whose authority?

The hon. member said he should like to explain why he moved for this information. Out of the last loan raised a sum of £2,000 was appropriated for jetty extension, and other works at Geraldton, connected with the harbor. If the jetty had been extended as it ought to have been, it would have now been available for the steamers plying along the coast to have come alongside. Instead of that the money had been diverted out of its proper course, and a great deal of it had been spent in surveys of the harbor. The condition of the jetty at the present time was very bad indeed; only one of our coasting steamers, the little *Rob Roy*, could come up to it; the others had to lie out in the harbor, which was very inconvenient for loading and unloading cargo, and particularly stock shipped for Perth market. The result was that the Northern people suffered a good deal in their trade, as it cost them an extra 7s. or 8s. a ton to ship their goods in lighters. The shipping trade at Champion Bay was very considerable; there was more wool exported from there, twice over, than any other port in the colony, and it cost about 2s. 6d. a bale more for shipping it than it need do, simply because the jetty had not been extended as it ought to have

been, to allow vessels to come alongside. It would be seen from this that the Geraldton people had great cause for complaint, in consequence of the action of the Government in diverting this money that was specially voted for the extension of the jetty. He believed some of it had been paid to Sir John Coode, and that was the reason why he had moved for these returns.

Motion put and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 3rd April, 1889.

Mandurah Breakwater: Re-appropriation of loan money—Message (No. 9): Attorney General's Pension—Constitution Bill: re-committed—Electoral Bill, 1889: second reading (negatived)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

MANDURAH BREAKWATER: EXPENDITURE OF LOAN MONEY.

MR. PATERSON, in accordance with notice, asked what amount of the balance of £981 11s. 7d. left out of original Mandurah Breakwater vote has been already expended in public buildings at Pinjarrah, and in what manner; also how it was intended to spend the remainder?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser)—replying on behalf of the Director of Public Works—said: No part of the balance of the Mandurah Breakwater vote, re-appropriated for Pinjarrah public buildings, has been ex-

pendent. It is intended that the whole of this sum shall be expended in Police and other Government buildings at Pinjarrah, when the character of those most required has been determined.

MESSAGE (No. 9): PENSION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (HON. C. N. WARTON).

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he, yesterday, received the following telegram from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State:—

"London, 1st April.

"Pension Attorney General ought to be two-thirds [of salary]. Find precedent Victoria."

"The Constitution Act of the Colony of Victoria, Section LVIII., provided that officers displaced on political grounds should receive pensions at the rate of three-fourths of their salary if their service had extended to ten years or upwards, and at the rate of two-thirds of their salary if their service had been less than ten years. No other distinction was drawn.

"The Governor would now ask Your Honorable House to reconsider the vote for Mr. Warton's pension in Schedule D. to the Constitution Bill, and to raise it from £800 to £400 per annum which would be two-thirds of that officer's salary of £600 per annum, not counting certain fees received.

"Among other reasons, the very restricted and almost entirely tropical field now offered by the Imperial Colonial Service to an officer desiring a new appointment therein, as compared with the far wider and more favorable field offered when the Victorian Constitution Act was passed thirty-five years ago, seems a valid reason why a High Officer of a Colony, now to be compulsorily retired under the West Australian Act, should not receive less consideration than was accorded to like officers in Victoria, in 1854. This is no doubt partly why the Secretary of State considers that the precedent of Victoria should apply.

"It may be remarked that the arrangements made in respect of one of the