

routes for our proposed railways to take. These were points which he thought might be best dealt with, not by a large committee but by sub-committees, who, if necessary, might take evidence. After what had been said that evening, and the divergence of opinion shown with regard to the routes of the Bunbury line and of the Greenough line, he thought that these sub-committees should as far as possible consist of members who were not directly interested in the districts concerned. There was evidently a strong difference of opinion on the subject, among the residents of the districts, and he certainly should himself object to have the responsibility thrust upon him to decide upon the merits of these rival routes. This was a question, and a most important question, for the committee and for that House to decide. Let the question of route once be settled, and no time would be lost by his department in proceeding with the work. Each line, in his opinion, should be treated on its merits, by persons knowing the country and its requirements, having regard to population and to the development of the country, and the interests of the colony at large. As to the question put to him by the hon. member for Wellington, as to the best style of railway adapted for pioneer lines, that was a question he should have a good deal to say upon in committee; but as to this line from Bunbury, whichever route may be adopted, he apprehended it never would be a main line. Our railways must be divided into main or trunk lines, and branch lines or feeders—the latter being merely of local importance; and he took it that this Bunbury line would be one of purely local importance and interest. His own impression was that the best thing to be done with lines like these was at first to make a cheap railway, adapted for pioneer purposes, and if the line proved successful, it might be replaced with a better style of railway of the ordinary gauge, and the line taken up might be taken to some other part of the colony to serve as a pioneer line.

The motion to refer the message to a select committee, as proposed by the Colonial Secretary, was then put and passed,—Mr. PARKER protesting against the number of members on the committee exceeding five.

## IMPORTED STOCK AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, 14th August, 1885.*

Correspondence between Central Board and District Board re appointment second mistress Government Girls' School, Perth—Petition (No. 4): Bunbury Railway Route—Reserve for Townsite at Lower Blackwood—Government Medical Officers and Private Patients—Message (No. 15): Powers and Responsibilities of Harbor Masters—Message (No. 16): Administration of the Government Stores Department—Message (No. 17): Annuity to Lady Barlee—Plantation of Pines at Rottnest—Bridge at Beverley, across the Avon—Vote in aid of a Town Hall for York—Amendment of Standing Order No. 19—Returns of Revenue and Expenditure, districts North of the Arrowamith—Allowance to His Excellency the Governor: adjourned debate—Explosives Bill: referred to Select Committee—Bush Fires Bill: third reading—Northern District Special Revenue Bill: third reading—New Guinea: Contribution towards expense of Administration (Message No. 12)—Adjournment.

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

### PRAYERS.

## CORRESPONDENCE RE APPOINTMENT SECOND MISTRESS, PERTH GIRLS' SCHOOL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) laid upon the table the correspondence relative to the appointment of a second mistress for the Perth Government Girls' School, asked for by Mr. Steere, on August 7th.

## RESERVE FOR TOWNSITE AT LOWER BLACKWOOD.

MR. LAYMAN asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands whether it was the intention of the Government to set apart a Reserve for a Townsite at or near the Lower Blackwood Bridge, on the Warren Road, and to have such reserve laid out in town grants for selection?

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. J. Forrest) said that a reserve would be made between the Lower Blackwood Bridge and the Nanup Brook reserve, and, when considered necessary, it would be laid out in allotments. If the hon. member would call upon him, he would consult with him as to the most suitable boundaries for such a reserve.

**PETITION (No. 4): BUNBURY RAILWAY ROUTE.**

Mr. VENN presented a petition signed by 244 residents of the Wellington District, praying that the House would in no way alter the route of the proposed railway from Bunbury to the timber ranges. The petition was received and read.

**GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS AND PRIVATE PATIENTS.**

Mr. BROCKMAN asked the Colonial Secretary whether the appointment to the position of Government Medical Officer carried with it any obligation on the part of such officer to attend professionally upon any person, not in Government employment, who may require his services and who may be prepared to pay all reasonable and lawful charges for such attendance; and, if so, what were those obligations?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. Fraser) said that appointments to the position of District Medical Officer were made for the general benefit of the districts concerned, although the specific services for which the salary was paid only included Government patients.

Mr. STEERE: We all knew that.

**MESSAGE (No. 15): CORRESPONDENCE RE HARBOR MASTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS.**

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"In reply to the Address of the Honorable the Legislative Council No. 5, of the 5th instant, the Governor has the honor to transmit to the Council, herewith, correspondence between this Government and the Governments of South Australia, Tasmania, and Singapore, relative to the powers and

"responsibilities of the head of the Harbor Department.

"Government House, Perth, 14th August, 1885."

**MESSAGE (No. 16): ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT STORES DEPARTMENT.**

Mr. SPEAKER notified the receipt of the appended Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"In reply to Address No. 4, of the 5th instant, the Governor has the honor to transmit, herewith, to the Honorable the Legislative Council, the Report of the Inspector of Accounts, dated the 16th of May, 1885, referred to in the Address.

"2. The Governor also transmits copy of two Minutes under his hand, dated the 27th of August and the 29th of October, 1884, showing the action taken by him pursuant to the second paragraph of the Governor's Message No. 11, of the 29th of July, 1884, in matters relative to the administration of the Stores Department. A copy of the Rules approved last year for the Department is also enclosed.

"3. The Governor is giving further attention to the questions connected with these papers.

"Government House, Perth, 14th August, 1885."

**MESSAGE (No. 17): ANNUITY TO LADY BARLEE.**

Mr. SPEAKER also notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"In reply to the Address of the Honorable the Legislative Council No. 11, of the 10th instant, the Governor has the honor to state that he has given directions for the introduction of a Bill to secure an annuity of £150 to the widow of the late Sir F. P. Barlee, K.C.M.G., in consideration of that officer's long and valuable services to the Colony.

"2. The Governor has sent a telegram to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, requesting that Lady Barlee may be apprised of the action taken in her behalf by Your Honorable House.

"Government House, Perth, 14th August, 1885."

## PLANTATION OF PINES AT ROTTNEST.

MR. HARPER moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he may be pleased to place the sum of £50 upon the Estimates for the purpose of establishing a plantation of pines on Rottneest." The hon. member said the object in view was to try the experiment of producing a local supply of soft wood, for which there was a considerable demand, but none growing in the colony. Seeing the free way in which pines grew on soil near the sea coast, it had occurred to him that it might be very useful and a paying thing in the long run to employ the labor of some of the native prisoners on the island in experimenting whether a plantation could not be established at Rottneest.

The motion was agreed to.

## BRIDGE ACROSS THE AVON, AT BEVERLEY.

MR. HARPER moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he may be pleased to place on the Estimates a sum sufficient to defray the expense of erecting a bridge across the river Avon, at Beverley." The hon. member said the House had already agreed to have a bridge built over the river at Wilberforce, with the object of increasing the traffic on the railway, and he believed it was the intention of the Government to have another bridge built, for the same purpose, between York and Beverley. Following up the same principle he now asked for a bridge across the river at Beverley, which would serve to tap a considerable amount of settlement on the eastern side of the river. As this was the farthest point of our railway it must be evident that it must attract a great deal of traffic, especially from the sandalwood country to the eastward, when the trade in that article brightened. This bridge would also be a source of great convenience to school children residing on the other side of the river; and, by affording a means of communication with that side of the township it could not fail to enhance the value of land in that direction, most of which he believed was still held by the Crown.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said there was already one bridge at Beverley; how far from that bridge did the hon. member intend this other bridge to be?

MR. HARPER said the present bridge was a considerable distance below the town—some three or four miles; the bridge which he now asked the House to provide for would be in the town. The roads of the district did not converge at the present bridge.

MR. RANDELL suggested the expediency of postponing the question until the Estimates were introduced. He thought it was very undesirable that they should at this stage pledge the revenue of the colony in this way, until they found what money there may be available for works of this character. He also thought it was desirable that the House should be furnished with more information as to the probable cost of this bridge.

MR. BROWN moved that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again another day.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

## VOTE IN AID OF TOWN HALL FOR YORK.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to take such steps as may be necessary for affording the municipality of York the same assistance proportionately as that given under similar circumstances to the municipalities of Fremantle and Albany, in respect to the erection of a Town Hall." Most hon. members, he thought, must have had personal evidence of the necessity for a public building in York sufficient for the accommodation of the growing requirements of the town. He noticed that a similar motion was brought forward last year by the hon. member for Albany, for a Town Hall in that town; and the principle involved in the Government assisting municipalities in this way received considerable support when the case of Albany was put forward, and he thought he might fairly rely upon the same support in this instance. As everyone was aware, York was a rising town,—

the "metropolis of the Eastern Districts," and it was most necessary that the inhabitants should have a public building where they could assemble on public occasions. As the whole principle involved in granting such aid was discussed in the House last year, and appeared to have been generally supported, he need say no more on the present occasion.

MR. WITTENOOM said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion. They all knew that York was rapidly expanding and growing in importance, and the number of its inhabitants increasing almost daily. The country was being developed by railway extension and other means, and he thought the people had every right to a Town Hall. They evidently took a lively interest in political affairs, as was evidenced the other day when they sought to have two hon. members, one of their own and one from Perth, to address them on the constitutional question of the day. He thought that a community who showed so much interest in public questions ought to be encouraged, and, as there was a precedent for granting aid out of public funds towards these Town Halls, he thought York was entitled to the same assistance as other towns.

MR. PARKER said he could speak from personal experience as to the necessity for such a building at York. At a recent political gathering that took place there, at which he was present, he regretted to say that a large number of the people interested in the object of the meeting were debarred from taking part in the proceedings, in consequence of the limited accommodation.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that when the question arose as to giving assistance to Fremantle in the erection of a Town Hall, he then drew attention to the probability that the result would be that in the course of time every little town and hamlet in the colony would want its Town Hall. The principle, however, having been recognised, he thought York had acted quite rightly in putting forward this claim. The House, having already assented to a similar request preferred on behalf of Fremantle, Albany, and Geraldton, could not with any show of consistency refuse the same assistance to the town of York.

MR. MARMION said it afforded him much pleasure to support the motion. The assistance asked for was the same proportionally as had been given to his own town,—20 per cent. of the cost of the building, and he only trusted that other municipalities would show the same public spirit.

MR. GRANT said he also had much pleasure in supporting this proposal. He did so for this reason, that when the claims of the North came to be considered, the same assistance would be given to northern Town Halls as was being given to the southern towns, for he would soon have to ask for a Town Hall for Roebourne.

The motion was then put and passed.

#### AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER

No. 19.

MR. BROWN, in accordance with notice, moved that Standing Order No. 19 be cancelled, and the following be adopted in lieu thereof: "That no vote of public money shall be taken except in committee of the whole Council." Hon. members would see at a glance the difference between this and the present Standing Order, which was to this effect: "That matters connected with finance shall be discussed only in committee of the whole Council." According to this rule there was scarcely a matter that came before them which, being directly or indirectly connected with finance, had not to be considered in committee, leading in many cases to a considerable waste of time, hon. members being at liberty to speak on the subject as often as they thought proper. If the new rule which he proposed to substitute for the present one were adopted this would to a great extent be altered, as there would be no occasion to go into committee except when a direct vote of public money was to be taken, and the House was asked to pledge itself to an expenditure of public funds; not, as at present, when discussing, as a matter of policy, a question that simply involved the possible expenditure of public money, without in any way pledging the House to such expenditure. He might for instance refer to the motion standing in the name of the hon. member for Plantagenet, asking the Government—if the finances of the colony

justified such a step—to establish a Geological Department. If the House agreed to that address it would not be committed to the expenditure of any money necessary for such a purpose; that would depend afterwards upon whether the amount required would be such as the House considered it would be justified in voting. He found that, by the rules of the Victorian Parliament, all grants and votes of money had to be taken in committee of the whole,—anything that pledged the House to the expenditure of the money; but that mere abstract resolutions which did not actually bind the House to any expenditure of public funds, but simply affirmed the desirability of it, did not come within the rule. He thought the new rule would commend itself to hon. members generally. He found on reference to *May* that it followed the rule laid down by that authority, as to the special functions of committees of the whole House.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was quite in accord with the hon. member in this matter. He had himself frequently felt the inconvenience occasioned by the necessity of going into committee to consider questions which involved no direct vote of public money, but merely an abstract resolution, or an address to the Governor. He could not himself think that any harm could ensue from adopting the new rule; on the other hand he thought it would occasionally save a good deal of trouble. There was one inconvenience which the hon. member had referred to, with respect to which he could not agree with him. The hon. member alluded to the frequency with which hon. members when in committee addressed the Chair. He was not in the habit himself of speaking merely for the sake of speaking, but he thought that the more matters connected with finance were discussed the better. The new rule, however, would answer very well as regards resolutions which were not in the form of a direct vote, but which were intended to result subsequently in a possible expenditure of money; and to this extent the new rule would undoubtedly tend to the despatch of business, by economising the time of the House.

MR. MARMION said he was not pre-

pared to oppose the new rule, but he thought there were two sides to the question. He could not quite see where the economising of time came in. It appeared to him that in many cases the effect of their having to address the House upon subjects connected with finance, when the Speaker was in the Chair, and being consequently limited to one speech,—it appeared to him that in many cases the result might possibly be that resolutions would be passed which, if they had been discussed in committee, and members had been allowed to address themselves to the subject more than once, would never have been adopted. It seemed to him that it was more desirable that there should be a full and free expression of opinion when the question of policy was under consideration than when the mere question of voting the money was put. Should the question of policy be negatived or considered inexpedient, there would be an end of it, and there would be no occasion to have the question of expenditure discussed at all. So that he did not think there would be any great advantage to be derived from this new rule as regards the saving of time. He presumed, however, that, in the event of its being considered desirable to have a subject discussed in committee—notwithstanding this rule—it would be competent for hon. members to move the Speaker out of the chair.

MR. BROWN: Certainly.

The motion was then put and passed.

#### RETURNS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, DISTRICTS NORTH OF THE ARROWSMITH RIVER.

MR. WITTENOOM, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to lay upon the Table of the House a return showing the amount of revenue and expenditure for the year 1884 of that portion of the colony north of a line drawn due east from the mouth of the Arrowsmith River." The hon. member said he moved this resolution in consequence of the answer he had received to a similar question the other day from the Colonial Secretary, which he did not think at all satisfactory. There appeared to be some difficulty—the hon. gentleman imagined there would be some difficulty—in fur-

nishing this return but it was very desirable that such a return should be furnished, if only an approximate return, so that it may be seen what the North really did contribute to the revenue and what its share of expenditure amounted to. It was sometimes said that the North got everything, and, on the other hand, the northern people said it was the South that got everything; and, if this return were furnished, perhaps it would be seen who was right. All he asked for was an approximate return.

MR. GRANT seconded the motion. He thought it was very necessary indeed that this question should be settled. He hoped hon. members would make no attempt to burke the question,—he said this, because of the disposition he observed that way the other evening on the part of some hon. members. Of course they all knew why.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the House was aware that a similar question was put to him the other night, and that to the best of his ability and the information at his command he replied to it. That reply was this: "The Treasury accounts are based as a whole on the annual Estimates, and the accounts are kept accordingly, under the provisions of the Audit Act. Separate accounts are not kept of the receipts and expenditure connected with the several districts. No such return as called for could be given with any approach to accuracy, as it would be impossible to determine the receipts of Customs to be credited to each district; goods cleared at Fremantle are consumed at the North-West and all over the colony: how much in each district it would be impossible to ascertain." That reply was given after due inquiry, and consultation with the Colonial Treasurer. He might go further and say that as regards other sources of revenue besides the Customs such a return, if furnished at all, must be a fictitious one. The hon. member talked of an approximate return—that was a very vague expression. What was the use of a return like this unless it was a truthful return? Even if this address were adopted, he could not promise that any return that could be furnished would be of any value. The hon. member must be aware there was no attempt on his part to keep back any information, either on this subject or any other

subject. He was sure hon. members would give him credit for that. But the hon. member for Geraldton seemed doubtful; the hon. member almost went so far as to accuse him of duplicity in this matter. The hon. member seemed to be under the impression that he wished to keep back this information, and the hon. member therefore now sought by the voice of the House as it were to force the information out of him. There had been nothing further from his intention than to keep back any information that would be of any value, and the only reply he could give was that which he had given. He mentioned this in explanation, so that in the event of the House agreeing to this address, hon. members might not be disappointed if they failed to obtain the information which the hon. member sought to obtain.

MR. GRANT remarked that instructions were given long ago by the Secretary of State for separate accounts to be kept of the revenue and expenditure of the Northern Districts.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Those instructions only referred to the North District. This return includes Champion Bay—a very different thing.

MR. BROWN said he did not think the Colonial Secretary need be at all under the impression that there was a chance of this resolution passing the House that evening. He imagined that hon. members all but unanimously considered that the answer given the other night by the Colonial Secretary to this same question was a full and sufficient one. [MR. WITTENOOM: No, it was not.] And he thought no one could avoid coming to the conclusion that if the House did pass this resolution it would be tantamount to a very strong vote of censure upon the Government. It simply resolved itself into this—were they to believe what the Colonial Secretary stated? For the House to adopt this resolution would be equivalent to their saying that they thought the Government could give this information if they chose. He himself was perfectly satisfied with the reply. If the hon. member thought that the public accounts should be kept in such a way as to show at a glance the revenue and expenditure of each separate district,

let him move a resolution to that effect, and, if carried, no doubt the Government might fall in with the views of the Legislature—though, undoubtedly, it would entail a considerable amount of increased labor and expense to keep the public accounts in that way. Being perfectly satisfied himself that the reply given was a full and sufficient reply, and feeling that if this motion were passed it would amount to a vote of censure upon the Government, and upon the Colonial Secretary himself, which would be most undeserving, he must oppose the motion.

MR. MARMION said allusion had been made in the course of the evening to a political meeting held at York. He believed there had also been a political meeting at Geraldton. [MR. PARKER: An earthquake.] He had no doubt the hon. member who had brought forward this motion would pardon him if he stated that he had no doubt the resolution brought forward that evening was the outcome of a resolution adopted at that Geraldton meeting, at which the hon. member was said to have committed himself hand and foot to that ugly word—Separation. He supposed the hon. member was desirous of showing his constituents that he had made some move in that matter; and it was quite within the bounds of possibility that the hon. member himself never anticipated that his motion would be passed, or that, if it were passed, the Government could give him the information he had asked for. It must have been within his knowledge that it would be utterly impracticable to have furnished this information, for the reasons given. He had noticed that it had become the fashion lately for the hon. member and some other hon. members to style themselves the "Northern members." Not so long ago, when the North was looked upon as of little or no importance, these hon. gentlemen were not so solicitous about the welfare of the far North; and he was very much afraid that all this solicitude about the North resulted in a great measure from the rapid development of that part of our territory of late years, and the large amount of revenue received from Kimberley; and they now found it convenient to associate themselves with those prosperous northern districts in order to swell their own importance, and in order

to enable them the more effectually to display the red flag of Separation. He thought it was time we heard a little less about this cry of separation. He believed the desire and the anxiety of all hon. members to be that the North should have its fair share of the public revenue [MR. BROWN: Hear, hear]. He thought it had received its fair share in the past, and he felt sure it would get it in the future. Under all the circumstances he thought it would be a graceful act on the part of the hon. member to withdraw his resolution. The hon. member had done what perhaps he thought was due to his constituents in the face of the pledges he had made to them. By withdrawing it he would relieve himself from an unpleasant position, for there could be no doubt if the resolution were to be carried it would be tantamount to a vote of censure upon the Government and upon the head of the Government in that House,—who had always shown himself desirous of treating the House with every consideration, and of affording the House every information.

MR. CROWTHER said he had yet to learn that it was the province of any hon. member in that House to attribute a motive—an unworthy motive—to another hon. member, when that hon. member simply brought before the House a subject which he considered he ought to bring before the House. The hon. member who had just sat down seemed to be much troubled in his mind about smoothing down some little feeling of irritation that had shown itself at the North. He would tell the hon. member this: if he wished to do away with that little feeling of antagonism that did exist, the hon. member must adopt a slightly different tone from that which he too often assumed in that House when speaking of the North, and which he certainly had assumed that evening. He was sure the hon. member himself did not believe a word he said.

MR. MARMION: The hon. gentleman himself is attributing motives.

MR. CROWTHER said he was attributing no motives. He would be very glad indeed if the Government could have furnished this return, but he was satisfied from the answer given by the Colonial Secretary that it could not be furnished, and he was sorry after the

conciliatory way in which the hon. member had been met that he did not withdraw his motion.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said he should have been most happy to support the address if by doing so he thought some definite or even approximately definite information as to the revenue and expenditure could have been obtained, for he thought such information would have been of just as much interest to members representing southern districts—after the little agitation that had been going on—as to members representing northern constituencies. But he felt convinced it would be impossible for the Government to give anything like a return that would be satisfactory to the hon. member, or give any definite information of value. He might remind hon. members that Geraldton was not the only district that had gone in for separation. His own district, some fifteen years ago, was very hot on separation. They were going to separate, drawing a line north of Kojonup, and memorialised the Secretary of State upon the subject. And one of the first things he was called upon to do, when elected for Albany, was to ascertain the revenue and expenditure of that part of the colony. He believed that revenue was then fully £12,000, while the expenditure was within £3,000, and they naturally thought that most absurd and iniquitous. So he was desired to obtain an official return from the Government, in his place in the House, and he asked for that return. He was met with, "Certainly, my dear boy; we are perfectly ready to give you your return." When that return was prepared they were brought in debt to the colony some £2,000 or £3,000. That was the result of an estimate, which could only be approximate. He had no doubt the hon. member's return, if furnished, would be as correct as possible, but he was sure it would be of little value, either to his constituency or to members down here.

MR. McRAE said that such a return as the one asked for would be very interesting to the North District, for certainly most people there were under the impression that they did not get their fair share of the public expenditure. But he thought, under the

circumstances, they should be satisfied with the reply given, and he thought the proper course for the hon. member for Geraldton would have been to ask that such returns be kept in the future, so that the information which they wanted could be furnished.

MR. STEERE said he should like to know with what possible object this return was asked for. [Mr. WITTENOOM: "I told you, just now."] He was not aware of it. The Secretary of State's despatch simply referred to that portion of the colony north of the Murchison River, and one could understand why a return of the revenue and expenditure of that part of the colony should be kept, because when the time came, which it must some day or other, for the colony to be divided, the line of separation would be drawn somewhere above the Murchison River. Surely the hon. member could not suppose that the line of division would be at the Arrowsmith. What, then, could be the possible object of calling for such a return? He understood that the people at the North—what he called the North—looked upon Geraldton as being South, and he was quite certain that if the colony were divided to-morrow they would not wish to have anything to do with Geraldton. They would say at once it would be impossible to govern it from the North, and, when a partition of the colony did take place, they might depend upon it that Champion Bay would be incorporated with the Southern division of the colony. He did not think the Northern people would care a bit for these Geraldton gentlemen: they would find them possibly as disagreeable as we sometimes did. What possible object then was there for moving for this return? He thought the hon. member could not do better than study the dictum of Edmund Burke, republished in one of our local papers the other day, as to the relation of a member to his constituency. According to that dictum, it was the duty of a representative to sacrifice a great deal to those whom he represented, but not to prostitute his judgment to theirs; and he was sure if the hon. member had been guided by his own judgment in this matter he would not have asked for this return. But, because of the cry at the North for separation, the hon. member had sacri-



ficed his own judgment to the wishes of his constituents, and asked for a return which he (Mr. Steere) thought it would be very unreasonable to expect the Government to furnish.

MR. WITTENOOM said it must have been very gratifying to the leader of the Government to find himself championed by the hon. member for the Gascoyne and the hon. member for Fremantle. Those hon. members seemed to think that if another member disagreed with them that member ought to be snuffed out. They were not going to snuff him out—not if he knew it. Those hon. members had accused him of wasting the time of the House in moving for these returns; he thought such an accusation came with very bad grace indeed from those two hon. members, above all other hon. members in the House. These hon. members too displayed their knowledge of parliamentary practice by charging him with a motive.

MR. BROWN: Will you mention the words in which I imputed any motive?

MR. WITTENOOM: Yes, you stated that I intended it as a personal affront to the Colonial Secretary.

MR. BROWN: I deny it.

MR. WITTENOOM: Well, something to the same effect.

MR. BROWN: Quite a different thing.

MR. WITTENOOM said it was something at any rate about a vote of censure upon the Government. He never intended anything of the sort. It was very hard indeed that if a member required a little information he should be sat upon. He was much obliged to the hon. member for Fremantle for his kind suggestion that it would have been good manners on his part to have withdrawn his resolution. As to the hon. member for——(he forgot now for where)—the hon. member Mr. Steere, and his depreciation of the Geraldton District, he could quite understand why the hon. member should dissemble his feelings towards the North. It was very well done indeed. The hon. member naturally did not wish to lose the North. He had over and over again heard the hon. member say that there was no land worth anything in the southern part of the colony; and the hon. member, no doubt, would be very glad indeed to see the line of division drawn at the Mur-

chison rather than at the Arrowsmith. He thought, when a member asked for information in that House, although that information might not be palatable to the feelings of some hon. members, it was only right that he should have fair play. [Mr. Brown: Hear, hear.] He was exceedingly sorry that the Colonial Secretary should have taken this as a personal matter. There was not a man in the House who entertained a greater respect for the Colonial Secretary than he did, and he felt sure that that hon. gentleman had done all he could in the matter himself, but he also felt that a great deal more had been made of the difficulty than need have been made, in the Treasury. He still felt certain in his own mind that an approximate return could have been made out—just the broad heads of the revenue, and of the expenditure upon the police, public works, and so on. But as it seemed to be the wish of most hon. members that he should not press the motion, and as the Colonial Secretary assured him it would be impossible to give a very accurate return, of course he should not proceed with it any further. As to his views on Separation, he thought, in spite of the hon. member for Fremantle, he had a perfect right to think as he pleased on that matter; and, although that hon. member insinuated that they were very foolish views, he hoped he might, by the kind permission of the hon. member, be permitted to retain them. He would detain the House no longer, but would ask leave to withdraw the resolution standing in his name.

Leave being given, the resolution was withdrawn.

#### ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNOR BROOME.

On the resumption of the debate upon Mr. VENN's motion for a sum of £500 to be placed on the Estimates, as an allowance for Government House in recognition of His Excellency's services on behalf of the colony while in England,

MR. CROWTHER—who had moved an amendment to the effect that a sufficient sum be placed on the Estimates to make up the full pay of His Excellency whilst absent from the colony—said that as there appeared to be some technical

objection to the motion in that form, he wished to withdraw it in favor of an amendment to be submitted by the hon. member for the Gascoyne.

The amendment was accordingly withdrawn.

MR. VENN intimated that he was quite willing to accept the amendment about to be proposed, which would answer the object he had in view as well as the original resolution.

MR. BROWN then moved an amendment, to the effect that the Council, fully recognising the services rendered to Western Australia by His Excellency the Governor whilst in England on his late visit, and wishing to record its appreciation of his exertions on behalf of the colony, resolved that an address be presented to His Excellency, praying that he would be pleased to place on the Supplementary Estimates a sum of £1,000, to cover the expense of His Excellency's visit to England. It was not necessary for him to say much in support of the amendment. All hon. members who had spoken on the subject the other evening concurred in the desirability of taking some step that would mark their appreciation of the services rendered to the colony by His Excellency; but, owing to a technical objection to the proposition in the form in which it was then submitted, it was considered desirable not to proceed with it. He was now in a position to state that the same objection did not apply to the present proposal—which simply meant the same thing in another way—and he was also in a position to add that the amendment in its present form would be acceptable to the hon. members of that House.

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

#### EXPLOSIVES BILL.

On the order of the day for going into committee for the further consideration of this bill,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said that on the last occasion when the bill was before the House a suggestion was made as to the desirability of appointing certain officers as inspectors, to test all mineral oils brought into the colony, with the view of

ascertaining whether they were of the required standard. As this was a matter of commercial interest, and as it might be desirable to extend the scope of the bill to that extent, he was quite content to adopt any course with reference to the bill which would meet with the judgment of the commercial members of the House who had a special knowledge of these matters; and it had been suggested to him that if the bill, even at the present stage, were referred to a small practical committee, time might be saved. Therefore, if any hon. member chose to move that the bill be referred to a select committee, he should have no objection. Of course he said that on the assumption that the committee would only deal with this particular part of the question. He was aware they could not very well limit the powers of the committee, but he thought the bill should only go to the committee on the understanding that it was not intended they should deal with the general scope of the bill.

MR. SHENTON thought that a small committee, possessing a practical knowledge of the matter, would be able to suggest some means of dealing with it in a satisfactory manner.

MR. STEERE thought unless that were done the discussion upon the subject in committee of the whole House would be interminable. He would therefore move that the order of the day be discharged, and the bill referred to a select committee, consisting of the Attorney General, Mr. Loton, Mr. Randall, Mr. Crowther, and the Mover.

Agreed to.

#### BUSH FIRES BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

#### NORTHERN DISTRICT SPECIAL REVENUE BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF NEW GUINEA: COST OF (MESSAGE No. 12).

On the order of the day for the consideration of His Excellency's message (No. 12), forwarding certain papers relating to the contribution of this colony towards the cost of administering the annexed portion of New Guinea,—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that hon. members who had read the papers sent down with the Governor's message would be aware that the contribution of Western Australia towards the sum of £15,000 agreed upon to be paid by the various Australian Governments, on the basis of population, towards the expense of administering the island, was £161 16s. 9d. per annum. But it would be perceived from the memorandum of the High Commissioner (Major-General Scratchley) that further assistance was required. Papers were also before the House showing the light in which this question of increasing the contribution of these colonies was regarded by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand. There was no desire on the part of this Government to dictate the amount of any increased contribution which the House might be inclined to make, or to influence hon. members in any way as to the action which it might be desirable for this colony to take in the matter. He merely came before the House in accordance with the terms of the Governor's message, to ask the House a simple question, as to whether or not they would be prepared to increase the amount of the contribution originally agreed upon. In order to test the feeling of the House on the subject he would move: "That this Council will be willing, if necessary, in order to bring this colony into accord with any arrangement respecting New Guinea agreed to by the other Australian colonies, to increase the contribution of £161 16s. 9d. per annum now made towards the expense of administering British territory in New Guinea to an amount not exceeding £——." He left the amount of the contribution blank, leaving it for the House to say what the amount shall be. It was out of his power at present to inform the House what the exact amount of our contribution would be, proportionately with the contributions of the other colonies; but, looking at the very small amount we now contributed, he did not apprehend it would be very much, and he thought everybody would admit that it was a good thing for this colony that it should have an equal voice with its neighbors in the administration of this island.

MR. SHENTON drew attention to the papers which accompanied His Excellency's message, from which it appeared that New South Wales, the premier colony, had declined to contribute any more towards her share of the expense of administration than she originally agreed to do, her reason for declining to do so being that she thought the Imperial Government ought to contribute. He could not find from the papers that South Australia had yet given any reply, but he believed Victoria and Queensland were in favor of increasing their contributions. Seeing, however, that New South Wales had refused to contribute any more than the amount originally agreed upon, he thought the matter, so far as this colony was concerned, might stand over for the present. There was no need to hurry ourselves in the matter. If at a later period of the session, when the Estimates were laid on the table, which would be the proper time to deal with the matter, they found that South Australia had agreed, as well as Victoria and Queensland, they might then consider whether this colony ought to join in.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said, of course, in this matter, we were merely following in the wake of the greater colonies. It was not expected that we should take the lead, and all that was asked was that, in the event of the other colonies agreeing to increase their contribution, we should do the same, in like proportion. Unless the other colonies jointly agreed, and unanimously agreed, it was not to be expected, nor was it contemplated, that this colony should take the lead and increase its own contribution.

MR. STEERE said he found that other colonies as well as New South Wales had refused to increase their contributions until they ascertained how much the Imperial Government itself would contribute. He should prefer the resolution if it stated that this colony would contribute at any time in proportion to the other colonies.

MR. GRANT said that, considering our geographical position as regards New Guinea—he meant the position of our northern territory—and the many advantages that might accrue to us from a closer relationship with New Guinea,

he thought we ought to agree to the proposal, and to join the other colonies to the fullest extent we could afford.

MR. PARKER said as the subject was an important one, and as they had only just seen His Excellency's message in print, he begged to move that progress be reported, and leave given to sit again.

Agreed to.

Progress reported.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 17th August, 1885.*

Land Grant Railway Concessions—School Buildings at York and Newcastle—Removal of East Fremantle railway platform—Establishment of Geological Department—Dog Act Amendment Bill—Volunteer Foreign Service Bill: first reading—Freight Charges on Northern Railway—Concessions towards establishment of the Sugar Industry (Message No. 8)—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### LAND GRANT RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

MR. GRANT asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Government intended taking any steps to limit land grant concessions for railway construction, and in what way tenants dispossessed by land grant concessions were to be compensated.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Government intended to take no action in the matter of land grant concessions for railway construction, except such as shall be approved on the recommendation of the Legislature. Lessees would be always entitled to the rights secured to them by the terms of their leases.

### SCHOOL BUILDINGS, YORK AND NEWCASTLE.

MR. HARPER asked the Director of Public Works to inform the House which department it was that was responsible for the tedious delay in proceeding with the proposed school buildings at York and Newcastle?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he regretted there should have been any delay in the erection of these buildings. It arose, in the first place, from the stress of work in the Public Works Department, which was undermanned at the time; in consequence of which the Central Board had to get designs made outside. These designs and specifications had been revised by the department and returned to the Board, and, so soon as they were received again, tenders would be invited for the buildings.

MR. VENN: Will the hon. gentleman say whether the same applies to Bunbury?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Exactly the same.

### EAST FREMANTLE RAILWAY STATION.

In reply to MR. PEARSE,

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the cost of removing East Fremantle railway station to a line with Edward Street would be included in this year's Estimates. He did not know whether the inhabitants of the town would prefer to have the street metalled to the station or the station removed; the cost would be about the same, and the people of Fremantle could have which they chose.

MR. PEARSE said he thought they would prefer having the station removed.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A GEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased, if the finances of the colony justified the step, to propose the establishment of a permanent geological department for the colony, the geologist in charge of such depart-