

"Inquiry. However, it will be open for the Council to recommend this, should they think proper, and the Governor has desired to strengthen his hands at the outset, in an important matter, by ascertaining the views of the Legislature of the Colony.
"Government House, Perth, 28th July, 1884."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the Message be referred to a select committee, consisting of Mr. Mason, Mr. Shenton, Mr. S. H. Parker, Mr. Marmion, Mr. Loton, and, by leave, Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, and the mover.

Agreed to.

DESIGNS AND TRADE MARKS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 29th July, 1884.

New Railway Station, Guildford—Customs Ordinance, 1860, Amendment Bill: first reading—Supplementary Estimates, 1884: further considered in committee—Message (No. 9): Police Benefit Fund—Message (No. 10): Extension of Telegraph Hours—Message (No. 11): Working of the Stores Department—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

NEW RAILWAY STATION, GUILDFORD.

MR. STEERE asked the Commissioner of Railways when it is intended to erect a new station at Guildford, the present station being on a siding and very inconveniently situated for passengers.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said that steps would be taken as soon as possible towards the erection of a more suitable structure.

CUSTOMS ORDINANCE, 1860, AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the first reading of a Bill to amend "The Customs Ordinance, 1860."

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1884.

The House then went into committee for the further consideration of these Estimates.

Volunteer Department.—Resumed Debate.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had made inquiries as to the cost of the Drill Instructor's passage to the colony, and it appeared that it was arranged by the Colonial Office, in the first instance, that he and his family should come out by a sailing vessel, the *Fitzroy*, but, owing to an alteration in the date of the departure of that vessel, it was arranged that the Drill Instructor and his family should come out in the s.s. *Bonnington*, the passage money, inclusive of bedding, etc., amounting to £103 16s. 9d.; in addition to which there was railway fare to the port of shipment and some expenses attending the landing in this colony, which made up a total of £110.

The item was then agreed to, and a sum not exceeding £529 17s. 6d. voted for the Volunteer Department.

Works and Buildings, Item £10,388 13s. 2d.:

MR. CAREY, referring to the item "Telegraph buildings, Roebourne and Cossack, £800," asked whether the Audit Committee had approved of this expenditure?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the matter was referred to the Audit Committee, but they thought the expenditure might wait for confirmation by the Legislature.

MR. MARMION said surely when the question of constructing the telegraph line was under consideration and the specifications were prepared, these buildings were not overlooked. It must have been known that the line would be of no use without offices. If, as he understood, there was likely to be some little balance

available after paying for the construction of the line, it would be better to appropriate that balance to the erection of these buildings rather than have them built out of general revenue.

MR. BROWN said he intended voting against this item, whatever other hon. members might do. For years they had been voting money out of current revenue for works which all must admit should come out of loan, and he thought it was time they put an end to it. It never was contemplated that these buildings should be provided out of current revenue and the telegraph line itself out of loan. The revenues of the colony were not equal to all these demands upon them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it was for the House to say whether the work should be done out of loan money or out of revenue.

MR. BROWN suggested that the amount should be included in the Public Works Loan.

MR. GRANT hoped no course would be adopted that would entail any delay in the construction of the buildings. Money had been voted out of revenue over and over again for works of this description.

MR. BROWN said there need be no great delay, if the money came out of the proposed loan, as a provisional arrangement might be made for defraying the cost in the first instance out of current revenue, and subsequently recouping the revenue out of the loan. He moved that the item be struck out of the Supplementary Estimates.

This was agreed to, and the item expunged.

MR. CAREY, referring to the item "Dangerous Goods Store (Fremantle), £1000," said he did not think there was any immediate necessity for this building, and he thought it would be plenty of time if the vote appeared on next year's Estimates. He regretted the Committee of Advice had sanctioned it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the necessity for the erection of this warehouse was not evident at the time the Estimates were before the House last session, but it had been pointed out to the Government since then, the danger to which the town of Fremantle was liable owing to the fact of large quantities of kerosene

being stored in different positions about the town,—among other places, in the yard of the "A" store. Representations had been made to the Government on the subject, by a firm who imported kerosene and other dangerous goods largely, and, the matter being referred to the Finance Committee, that body sanctioned the proposed expenditure, being satisfied as to the desirability of immediately proceeding with the erection of such a building as was here contemplated. It was a matter of serious importance to the inhabitants of Fremantle, involving as it did the safety of their lives and of their property. He might add that the work would be a reproductive work, as there would be warehouse charges for storing dangerous goods, and he believed the expenditure of this £1000 would not be a bad investment, even from a financial point of view.

MR. SHENTON asked whether arrangements could not be made for utilising the old Tunnel for this purpose. He thought it would be as safe a place as they could get, and, at a cost of about £100, it would give three times as much accommodation as the proposed store, in addition to which its close proximity to the railway would be very convenient when removing kerosene or other dangerous goods.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had not lost sight of the locality indicated, but a difficulty arose in consequence of the Tunnel being regarded as a public thoroughfare, which could not be closed without an Act of the Legislature; and, after giving the subject their best consideration and consulting with the head of the Works Department, they saw no course open but to construct a separate warehouse, in a position where it would not be a source of danger.

MR. HIGHAM said he could speak rather feelingly on this point, as he knew something about what had led to the action of the Government in the matter. Two firms had buildings, detached from all other buildings, upon Government ground, and used for storing kerosene and other goods, when, all at once, it struck a certain Town Councillor that these buildings obstructed his view, and he made representations to the Government, with the result that the buildings had to be pulled down, and

these two firms had to store their kerosene on their own premises, contrary to law, and to the danger of the community. He thought it was high time some steps were taken to provide a Dangerous Goods Store at Fremantle.

MR. STEERE, referring to the Item "Works at Derby, £2,500," asked for some information as to the works proposed to be undertaken with this money. A considerable amount of money had already been thrown away on public works at Derby, owing to there being no competent person there to see that the work was properly executed, and he thought they ought to have some guaranty that the Government was not going to throw any more money away in the same way.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was not in a position to say exactly how it was proposed to expend the vote, but he would give the House this assurance—that none of it would be spent until full inquiries had been made on the spot as to the best mode of carrying out the proposed works.

MR. STEERE said he should be sorry to do anything calculated to retard the progress and development of this district, but he certainly could not consent to this expenditure unless the Government were in a position to furnish the House with some further explanation as to how it was proposed to spend the money. In order to test the feeling of the committee, he would move that the item be struck out.

MR. GRANT hoped the committee would not do that. He was sorry his hon. colleague Mr. McRae was still unable to be present to give the House the information it required on this point. Mr. McRae had visited the locality on purpose to inspect what had already been done, and what was required to be done.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) regretted he was not in a position to furnish hon. members with full information on the subject. He understood there was an overseer and a party of men now on the spot, under the directions of the Resident Magistrate (Mr. Fairbairn), and this sum had been placed on the Estimates in a great measure owing to the representations made by that officer, with whom the

Government was still in communication on the subject.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said although he could not enlighten the committee as to the precise character of the works upon which it was intended to spend the money, hon. members might trust the Government that it would be spent economically and with a due regard to the requirements of the station at Derby. His Excellency, as hon. members were aware, intended visiting the district shortly, and no doubt all action in respect of these works would be stayed until the Governor's projected visit had been made.

MR. BROWN did not see how the committee, with the present information before it, could take upon itself to vote this money. They did not know whether it was intended for a telegraph line, a railway, a wharf, a Government residency, a courthouse, police quarters, or what. The Colonial Secretary told them it would be expended with a due regard to economy, but the hon. gentleman could not say upon what. The Director of Public Works told them he believed there was an overseer and a party of men on the spot, in charge of the Resident Magistrate, but what they were doing or what they intended to do, the hon. gentleman could not inform them. He thought it would be quite a farce if the committee were to vote this money, without some further information on the subject. He had no doubt every member was prepared to trust the Government to do what they conceived best, with regard to any public funds placed at their disposal; at the same time it was the duty of that House to see that it had an opportunity of expressing an opinion as to how the money placed at the disposal of the Government should be spent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) would be sorry to see the vote struck out, for this reason: it must be well known to every hon. member that this question of public works at Derby was a question surrounded with many difficulties, and that these works were necessary works. No doubt this money was required for the construction of a tramway that was washed away by the tides last year, and there would be a great deal more money

than this wanted before they made a really good substantial work of it. If Derby was to be the future townsite of the Kimberley District, a great many more thousands would be required before a thoroughly good piece of work could be completed.

MR. CROWTHER suggested that a way out of the difficulty in which the committee was placed would be to vote this money and pass a resolution to the effect that it should not be spent until the Director of Public Works or some other competent person had visited the locality, and seen the works projected. If the committee consented to vote the money he would move a resolution to that effect. He was very much afraid that the public works at Derby were not works that would redound to the credit of the Government. He was informed by those who had seen what had already been done, that when the Government sent a really practical man to look at the work they would be perfectly ashamed of what had been attempted and carried out. He would only hope that such reckless waste and mismanagement would not take place in the future as in the past. No doubt the Government had, according to their lights, done the best they could, under the circumstances, but they had gone to work too hurriedly. He very much doubted whether they had not made a mistake in the selection of the site for a townsite. Derby might be a good landing place, but he ventured to say that other places more suitable for a townsite would yet be found.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said whatever might be the opinion of those who had not visited the locality, the opinion of those who *had* visited it and endeavored to discover the best site for a townsite was, that Derby and another place, where water was not obtainable, were the only places on the eastern shore of King Sound at all suitable for a settlement. As to any mistakes made in connection with public works, it was easy to be wise after the event. The Government like other people "lived and learnt," and, bearing in mind the great difficulties which had to be encountered, he submitted that there was no ground for charging the Government with "reckless waste or mismanagement."

MR. GRANT hoped the committee would accept the suggestion of the hon. member for Greenough, and the assurance of the Government that the money would not be spent until an opportunity had been offered the Works Department to see what was proposed to be done. They were told that His Excellency the Governor, and probably some prominent members of his Government, intended visiting the district shortly, and they would then be able to see whether the works proposed were works calculated to suit the requirements of the place, or whether Derby itself was the best locality for a townsite. Possibly there had been mistakes made in the past with regard to these works, but it was nothing unusual for mistakes to be committed in the settlement of a new territory. Even the sites of capitals had been removed before now. It was almost impossible, considering the long distance of the place from the seat of Government, and the means of communication at our command, to guard against mistakes, or to see that money voted for public works was properly spent. This was only another proof of the necessity of establishing telegraphic communication with this district. He hoped the committee would allow the vote to pass, in the face of the assurance already given by the Colonial Secretary.

MR. BROWN pointed out that £3000 was voted on the Supplementary Estimates last year for public works at Derby, on the same assurance that the money would not be wasted; but, up to the present time, what had been expended out of that vote had been literally thrown into the sea. They were now asked to vote another £2500, but, for his own part, he should be sorry to see another penny expended until the Government was in possession of fuller information than they appeared to have at present as to the proposed works, and had an opportunity of ascertaining what was really required. He did not think they were doing the district a good turn at all in voting money like this to be frittered away, to no good purpose. It would be better for the district and better for the colony to wait until the money could be judiciously expended, instead of being in such a tremendous hurry about the spending of it.

MR. STEERE was sure the discussion that had taken place on this vote would be a benefit to the district, and he also hoped it would lead the Government to exercise more care and discrimination in the future. As he understood it was the intention of the Governor himself to visit the district in September, he hoped His Excellency would take with him either the Director of Public Works or some competent officer of the department to advise him in the matter. After what had been said, and in view of the expressed intention of the hon. member for Greenough to move a resolution to the effect that none of this money is to be expended until an officer of the Works Department has visited the locality, he begged leave to withdraw his proposal that the vote be struck out.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the item "Telegraph, Breaksea, £307," be struck out. The House last year appropriated £600 for this work, and it was estimated then it would require £307 more. Since then a great deal of correspondence had taken place between the Government and the Crown Agents as to the best kind of submarine cable to be used in establishing communication with this signal station, and some delay had been occasioned in consequence; and it was only within the last few days that he had been informed by the Crown Agents what a suitable cable would cost. The distance was about four miles, and the cost of cable was now stated to be £114 per mile, which would make the first cost nearly as much as the amount appropriated last year for this service. As the cable could not be here until the end of this year, it would be unnecessary to place a sum on these supplementary estimates to meet the cost of transport and of laying the cable, and as the amount now on these estimates (£307) would, in any case, be insufficient for that purpose, what the Government proposed to do was to place a sum of (say) £500 on the Estimates for 1885 to defray these charges. This money would be available by the time the cable arrived in the colony, so that no delay would be occasioned by this arrangement.

The item £307 was then struck out,

and the vote for "Works and Buildings" was agreed to.

Roads and Bridges: (Wells on road East to Lake Moore, £200; Wells, Kimberley District, £200), £400:

These items were agreed to, and, at the request of the hon. member for Greenough, £200 was placed on the Estimates for sinking wells on the road between Geraldton and the Murchison, *viâ* Mulliwa. A sum of £350 was also voted for clearing a road from Baylup to Chidlow's Well.

Literary, Scientific, and Agricultural Grant, £20:

MR. SHENTON said that last year a promise was made that the Farmer's Club, Northam, would receive a grant-in-aid, but he understood that up to the present this promise had not been fulfilled.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he was rather inclined to think that it was to meet that promise that this vote was in part taken. If his surmise did not prove correct, he would endeavor to meet the hon. member's wishes.

The vote was then agreed to.

Miscellaneous, Item £1,800:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the sum of £50 be added to provide for the premium which it had been decided to offer for the best designs for the central portion of the new Government Offices, Perth.

Agreed to.

MR. CAREY, referring to the item "Gratuity to Mr. W. Cowan, R.M., York, £300," thought this vote would cause a great deal of dissatisfaction among other public servants whose services had been as valuable and extended over as long a period as the officer whose services it was proposed to recognise in this special manner. He should be glad to be informed why this unusual course had been adopted in Mr. Cowan's case.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): For this reason: After the Committee had investigated the claims of officers seeking an increase of salary, this officer made an appeal for some recognition of his long services—he being one of the oldest public officers in the Government service, and, supported by the advice of the Committee, the Governor felt sure he would only be giving an

expression of the good-will of the House towards a deserving public servant if he placed this sum on the Estimates as a gratuity to an officer who was respected by all who knew him. It was considered that at his age a lump sum would be of greater advantage than a slight increase added to his salary, like some other Magistrates had had; and he felt sure hon. members generally would view it in the same spirit as the Government, and would cheerfully agree to this honorarium.

MR. GRANT thought it very undesirable that precedents of this kind should be established. There were other officers in the public service who had quite as strong a claim upon the generosity of the Government as this officer.

SIR L. S. LEAKE said this gratuity had received the very careful consideration of the Finance Committee, and it was felt that it was only a simple act of justice to a very old public servant, who had been in the service of the Government since the year 1839, and who had been very much underpaid, and who had been promised an increase. If any other Magistrates found fault because one of their number received this slight recognition of his services, all he could say was, that people who entertained such a petty feeling were not deserving of the consideration of that House.

MR. CROWTHER said he knew another public servant who had been a Government officer several years longer than this gentleman, and who had done his duty equally as well and been worse paid; and he had no doubt, if that officer had taken the same steps as Mr. Cowan did, and appealed to the Finance Committee they would have felt justified in recommending him for a gratuity of £600 instead of £300. He did not object to this particular gratuity, but he did object to a precedent being established for granting gratuities to public officers while they were still in the service.

The vote was then agreed to.

Refunds, Item £300:

Agreed to.

Works and Railways Department, Item £2,472 17s. 4d.:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved several amendments in this vote, which were agreed to with-

out discussion. (*Vide "Votes and Proceedings," p. 53.*)

MR. CAREY, referring to the item "Traffic Manager and Station Master, Fremantle, £50," expressed his surprise at this increase, in view of the strong way in which the conduct of this officer had been condemned on a former occasion.

MR. MARMION called attention to the desirability of the railway servants being supplied with a distinctive uniform, as in other countries.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said he had had the subject under his consideration, and, for his own part, he should like to see it carried out.

MR. SHENTON suggested the desirability of extending the platform accommodation at the Perth railway station. The present platform was quite insufficient to meet any extra strain.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Mr. C. T. Mason) said, if he could see his way clear, it would not be his fault if the hon. member was not asked to record his vote in favor of a sum for the purpose referred to.

The item was then agreed to.

Estimates reported.

MESSAGE (No. 9): POLICE BENEFIT FUND.

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

"The Governor has the honor to request the Honorable the Legislative Council to consider the papers named in the margin,* relative to the condition of the Police Benefit Fund, and to favor him with their opinion as to the steps most proper to take in view of the present unfortunate financial position of the Fund.

"Government House, Perth, 29th July, 1884."

The Message was referred to a select committee, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Steere, Mr. Brown, Mr. Loten, and Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell.

* Report by Superintendent of Police, dated 23rd April, 1884, with annexures.

MESSAGE (No. 10): EXTENSION OF TELEGRAPH HOURS.

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

"The Governor has the honor to lay before the Honorable the Legislative Council a report, dated the 28th May last, furnished by the Postmaster General (Mr. Helmich), on the question of an extension of the telegraph office hours throughout the colony.

"2. This subject engaged the attention of the Legislative Council last year, but it was not finally disposed of.

"3. The proposals made by the Postmaster General appear good in themselves; the question is, whether it would be judicious to add the expense of carrying them out, namely, £570, to the present annual cost of the Telegraph Department.

"4. The Government, who are the largest users of the telegraph lines, find the present hours sufficient for every practical purpose.

"5. It is difficult to arrive at the separate cost of the Telegraph Department, as distinct from that of the Post Office. Taking the post and telegraphs of the Colony together, last year's expenditure seems to have exceeded the receipts by £17,212; and it seems doubtful whether a larger gift to the public would be consistent with sound administration.

"Government House, Perth, 29th July, 1884."

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Message was referred to a select committee, consisting of Mr. S. H. Parker, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Marmion, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Loton, and, by leave, the mover.

MESSAGE (No. 11): WORKING OF THE STORES DEPARTMENT.

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

"The Governor has the honor to lay before the Honorable the Legislative Council the enclosed report, dated the 5th instant, of a Committee recently appointed by him to inquire into the working of the Stores Department.

"2. The Governor proposes to carry out, with perhaps some variation in

"one or two matters of detail, the recommendations made by the Committee, the members of which he has to thank for a careful and valuable report.

"Government House, Perth, 29th July, 1884."

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 30th July, 1884.

Telegraph line between Roebourne and Cossack—Albany Mechanics' Institute Bill: first reading—Newspapers (Libel and Registration) Bill: first reading—Building Bill: second reading—Wines, Beer, and Spirits Sale Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: second reading—Message (No. 12): Correspondence with Settlers' Association re Land Regulations—Message (No. 13): Correspondence with Messrs. W. D. Moore & Co., re subsidy Singapore steam service and pilotage—Consideration of Message (No. 4) re Telegraph Rates to Roebourne—Portuguese sailors of the barque *Bertha*: adjourned debate—Consideration of Message (No. 1) re High School Scholarships—Bills of Exchange Bill: second reading—Bank Holidays Bill: in committee—Excess Bill, 1883: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

TELEGRAPH LINE BETWEEN ROEBOURNE AND COSSACK.

MR. GRANT, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works when it is the intention of the Government to commence the telegraph line between Roebourne and Cossack, and whether any arrangements have been made for the work being immediately commenced and carried out?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. C. T. Mason) replied:—The delay in proceeding with the telegraph line between Roebourne and Cossack (for which £250 is provided on the current Estimates) has arisen from the