

Victorian Act, relating to the Melbourne Public Library. He only hoped that the little property which our own Library had would be increased by gifts and contributions from private citizens, so that the institution might in time become a credit to the colony.

On the motion of Mr. HENSMAN, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

The House adjourned at a quarter to nine o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, March 16th, 1888.

Steps for obtaining water supply at Yilgarn—Rolling stock and opening of Bunbury-Boyanup Railway—Returns of Railway Traffic—Water Supply for the town of Carnarvon—Message (No. 9): Forwarding despatch re Act of Council, No. 9 of 1887—Insufficiency of Harbor Master's staff at Albany—The Greenough Flats Disaster: Repair and construction of Roads—Estimates, 1888: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

STEPS FOR OBTAINING WATER SUPPLY AT YILGARN.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works what steps (if any) the Government proposed to take, with the object of obtaining a water supply in the vicinity of the Yilgarn hills?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied: The Government boring apparatus is all in readiness to start, and would have done so before this had it not been deemed expedient to obtain the coöperation of the Roads Boards most directly interested, of York, Northam, and Newcastle. As these, however, refused to have anything to do with it, the Govern-

ment will take the necessary steps at once to bore for water on the fields, and the men and materials will be sent up immediately.

BUNBURY-BOYANUP RAILWAY: DATE OF OPENING.

MR. VENN, in accordance with notice asked the Commissioner of Railways:—

1. Whether the Plant and Rolling Stock for the first section of the Blackwood Railway has arrived at Bunbury.

2. Whether the same is being put together, and the date the Government intend to open the Railway for traffic—between Boyanup and Bunbury.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied:

1. The Plant and Rolling Stock has arrived.

2. It has not as yet been erected as, owing to the reductions in expenditure for the present year, it has been found impossible to open the Bunbury Railway. I hope, however, we may be enabled to do so in 1889, and in that case the rolling stock will be erected in readiness.

RETURNS SHOWING RAILWAY TRAFFIC ON VARIOUS LINES.

MR. VENN, in pursuance of notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to lay upon the table of the House:—

1st. A return showing the goods and passenger traffic on Newcastle line of Railway, between Newcastle and Perth, from the opening of the Newcastle section to 1st March.

2nd. A return showing the goods and passenger traffic on the Beverley Branch of the Eastern Railway, between Beverley and Perth; the return not to include goods or traffic connected with the contractors of the Albany Railway.

3rd. Also a return showing goods and passenger traffic of the Railway from Geraldton to Walkaway, from date of opening to 1st March.

4th. Also a return showing traffic on the Cossack and Roebourne Tramway for 3 months ending 1st March.

5th. Also a return showing goods and passengers between Geraldton and Northampton for the 3 months ending 1st March.

The hon. member said he did not move for these returns out of any idle curiosity. His question with regard to the Bunbury railway having been answered as it had been, he thought it very desirable that the House and the country might be in a position to form an opinion from the returns on other lines, whether the Government were acting wisely in deferring the opening of the Bunbury railway until next year.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said there would not be the slightest objection on the part of the Government to afford all the information which the hon. member asked for, but, inasmuch as the returns up to the end of last year had already been published, he presumed the hon. member would be satisfied if he obtained the returns from that date up to the 1st March, instant. This would obviate a great deal of unnecessary clerical work, and give the hon. member all the information which he required.

MR. VENN having expressed himself satisfied with this proposal, the address was adopted.

WATER SUPPLY FOR THE TOWN OF CARNARVON.

MR. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to have placed on the Estimates for the current year, a sum of money sufficient to provide the inhabitants of Carnarvon with a supply of pure drinking water. Hon. members were aware, no doubt, that on a previous occasion he had referred to this question of a water supply, in the form of a question; but he did not on that occasion give any information to the House as to the facts of the case, and the urgent necessity of the case. Ever since the first settlement of the place, the inhabitants of Carnarvon have had to cart their water from a pool, known as Yangie pool, which was two miles from the township, which was the only drinking water available. During dry seasons the water in this pool was quite unfit for drinking purposes. On one occasion, he believed, the supply got so low that there was only green sediment left, and, owing to the number of stock about the town-

ship, the water became utterly unfit for human consumption. The river, on an average, since 1881, only ran once in two years; so that hon. members could easily understand what state this pool was in. The inhabitants did not wish the Government to be put to the expense of providing them with water without paying for it; they were quite willing to submit to a water rate, or small tax; so that the work might really be looked upon as a reproductive work, as well as a very necessary one. This water rate would probably pay the interest on the money expended. The inhabitants had tried, over and over again, to obtain pure water, nearer the township, but owing to the marshy character of the surrounding soil they had been unsuccessful, and they asked the Government to do for them that which private enterprise had failed to do. He did not anticipate that the cost would be very great. He observed that a sum of £700 had been placed on the original Estimates for this year, for this work, but he regretted to see that the amount had been struck off the revised Estimates. He supposed this was because the Government found it necessary to cut down the expenditure, to bring it within the revenue; but he thought that in an urgent case like this they might stretch a point, and venture to place this small sum on the Estimates, especially when the residents of the district were prepared to submit to a tax. He did not know whether this £700 would be sufficient, but it was the amount asked for by the Director of Public Works, who knew what was required to be done. He hoped the House would support him in passing this address, and that the Government would recognise the necessity of immediate action in the matter.

MR. A. FORREST said he had great pleasure in supporting the motion. Carnarvon was one of the most important outlets of the colony, and its wool and stock trade was proportionately equal to that of any northern port. Acquainted as he was with the unsatisfactory water supply of the place, he could speak as to the absolute necessity of something being done to improve the present supply. He was under the impression, when he saw an amount placed on the Estimates last year for the purpose, that the work would have been

carried out at once. The Director of Public Works was well aware of the necessity for it, and he believed the Commissioner of Crown Lands had received a large amount of money from the sale of town lots in Carnarvon, so that the Government could well afford to spend a few hundred pounds in providing the inhabitants with water, especially as the inhabitants were prepared to submit to a tax or water rate. He thought the least the Government could do was to bring water into the town, fit for drinking, instead of the people having to cart it for two miles, and then only have a very indifferent supply. The Carnarvon people, and the Gascoyne people generally, had been a very long-suffering people. They never asked the Government or that House for anything, and he believed their member had been abused sometimes for not pressing their wants and their claims more upon the attention of the House. They had no grants for roads, telegraphs, or bridges, or other public works, like other districts,—

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): What about their £12,000 jetty?

MR. A. FORREST said the jetty was useless; it was money thrown away. Vessels wouldn't come alongside of it. He hoped the House would unanimously support this motion for giving the town a decent water supply, which would be a great boon.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he entirely agreed with what had fallen from both hon. members who had spoken on this subject, that a good water supply for the town of Carnarvon was a desideratum. So it was for every other township in the colony, if the Government could only afford it. But that was the difficulty. The hon. member for Gascoyne had alluded to the fact of the £700 having been knocked off the Estimates, but the hon. member must be aware that this was not the only item which had to be omitted from the revised Estimates. It must be a source of satisfaction to the inhabitants of the district to know that the river this year at any rate was running, and running strongly, so that there was no danger of any water famine during the ensuing season. When the House met again it might be in a position to pay due regard to the claims of

Carnarvon in respect of an improved water supply, and also the claims of other townships, which were being pressed upon the Government,—such as Roebourne and Cossack. But at the present moment he could not see the utility of pressing this address, as he did not see where the money was to come from.

MR. MARMION asked whether any estimate had been made of the probable cost of this work, and whether it was a reliable estimate, and such as would satisfy the requirements of the place. It was no use spending a lot of money and then be told, as they had been told that evening about the jetty, that it was useless.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had always admitted that one of the most necessary things for the Gascoyne district and the town of Carnarvon was a good water supply; there was only one thing that was still more necessary, and that was the protection of the town itself. He believed a water supply might be obtained for the sum which he had originally placed on the Estimates (£700), but, unfortunately, owing to the retrenchments which the Government had been called upon to make, this amount had to be struck off. He thought, however, the Government might do well to replace it, as soon as funds were available. This was the first time he had heard of the residents being willing to submit to a water rate. As soon as the money was available, he should say there was no more necessary or desirable way of spending it than in providing Carnarvon with a supply of good drinking water. As to the allegation that the jetty was useless, that was only a trumped up story: the jetty was a very great convenience to the shipping, and might be utilised a great deal more than it was.

MR. LAYMAN opposed the motion. There were other towns in the colony that were ill supplied with water. [**MR. SHOLL**: They have wells.] Why couldn't the Carnarvon people sink wells? If the Government supplied them with water, they would be asking next for the Government to supply them with brandy, to mix with it. If the residents were prepared to provide the interest on the outlay, they could easily get the work

undertaken by private enterprise, without coming to the Government for assistance. He thought the hon. member might very well withdraw his motion, for the present at any rate.

MR. SCOTT said he intended to support the address. It might, perhaps, as the Colonial Secretary had hinted, be a little premature, but, seeing that the absolute necessity of the work was acknowledged on all hands, there could be no harm in directing the attention of the House to the matter, so that, if there were no funds available at the present moment, the claims of the district should not be overlooked as soon as there was any money at the command of the Government. He thought the member for the district had clearly shown that the present supply of water was unfit for consumption, besides being a long way out of town; and it was impossible for the inhabitants of a small place like Carnarvon to undertake such an outlay. He thought they had a strong claim upon the Government, more especially as they expressed their willingness to submit to a water rate.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said that having an intimate knowledge of the locality, he should like to remark that it was not the lack of water that was the great drawback at Carnarvon, so much as the distance of the present source of supply from the town. He was afraid, if they were to spend this £700 in finding water in the vicinity of Yalgie Pool, the people of Carnarvon would not thank them for it. What they wanted was to have the water brought into town, and he was afraid that could not be done for anything like the sum of £700. Although the water in the pool, when stagnant, was unfit for consumption, still, as a rule, by sinking in the vicinity of pools, good water might be obtained.

MR. SHENTON said it appeared to him that the great difficulty was to find where the money was to come from. In the Estimates now laid on the table he noticed there was only an estimated credit balance of £668 at the end of the year. He thought the hon. member's wisest plan would be to postpone his motion, until they saw whether some other items might not be struck out, as

they went through the Estimates, so as to leave a larger credit balance. At present, he failed to see how the House could pledge itself to this expenditure, when they only had an estimated surplus of £668 at the end of the year, according to the Estimates as now framed.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT said if the hon. member pressed his motion to a division he should vote against it. Every other little town would be happy to be provided with water works, as well as Carnarvon, and no doubt it would be a very good thing, if such a luxury could be afforded. If the Government were to supply the good people of Carnarvon with water, in all probability they would next want to be supplied with gas. People in other parts of the colony had to sink their own wells, and the residents of Carnarvon should do the same.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL hoped that ways and means might be found for carrying out the object in view, at an earlier date than the Government seemed to anticipate. He thought this being a matter that affected the public health it might well be regarded as one of urgency. He would suggest to the hon. member that he should move the adjournment of the debate, until the House had an opportunity of going through the Estimates.

Debate adjourned.

MESSAGE (No. 9): DESPATCH *re* H.M.S. LIQUORS BILL.

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

"The Governor has the honor to transmit, herewith, for the information of the Honorable the Legislative Council, copy of a Despatch (No. 13 of the 1st ultimo) from the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, with enclosure, respecting the Act (No. 9 of 1887) for controlling the introduction of intoxicating liquors on board Her Majesty's ships.

"2. It will be seen that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty express their satisfaction at the passing of the law in question.

"Government House, 16th March, 1888."

THE HARBOR MASTER'S STAFF AT ALBANY.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, drew the attention of the Government to the insufficient staff employed in harbor duty at Albany, and moved "That, in the opinion of this House, it would be desirable that the Government should consider whether, in view of the greatly increased work placed upon the Harbor Master and his crew at Albany, arrangements might not be made to lighten their present very arduous toil." The hon. baronet said that when he gave notice of this motion the other night, his hon. friend on his right (Mr. Venn) said that he ought to have included the Customs staff with the Harbor staff; but, he had not thought that was necessary, for he believed the Government were already perfectly well aware that the Customs staff at Albany was very much less than it ought to be, to do the work now required to be done at that port. Very strong representations had been made to him, for some time past, with regard to the insufficiency of the Harbor Master's staff. Hon. members would scarcely believe that the staff at the present moment was not larger than it was when he arrived there, twenty years ago, when there was only one mail steamer a month, and scarcely any other vessels trading with the port. Now, two steamers called there weekly, including the P. & O. and the Orient boats; and a number of other steamers put in there for coal, and for other purposes. The Harbor Master's crew had also other duties to attend to; they had to look after the station of Breaksea, and see to the buoys; and he had been told that their work was positive slavery, out night after night, without any rest. When he was last down at Albany, the Harbor Master told him that he had had great difficulty indeed in keeping up the number of his crew, in consequence of their being overworked. He had brought the matter to the notice of the Government, and hon. members would see that there was a slight increase, on the Estimates, in the wages of the men, putting them on the same footing in this respect as the Fremantle harbor crew. But it was not only an increase of wages for the present staff that was wanted; it was

urgently necessary that there should be an increase in their number. People at Albany said, and probably with some show of reason, that if such a state of things occurred here, at Fremantle, immediately under the eye of the Government, it would be remedied immediately. In the present state of the finances he did not feel justified in asking that any additional sum should be placed on the Estimates for increasing the salary of the Harbor Master himself; but he thought that officer might fairly be allowed forage allowance, to enable him to keep up communication with the town. All he ventured to do now was to draw the attention of the Government officially to this state of affairs, and ask the House to join with him in urging upon the Government to consider the matter.

MR. SHENTON said the resolution was very vaguely worded, and the House did not really know what it was asked to commit itself to. He thought they ought to have had some comparative statistics, showing the number of ships calling at Albany, and the nature and extent of the work falling upon the harbor crew, as compared with the work at Fremantle. He thought the work at Fremantle, with its open roadstead, was much more arduous than it was at Albany. If, however, it could be shown that the staff at Albany was really too small, he should be quite prepared to support the resolution; but he thought the House ought to have some further information on the subject.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said this was a matter that had been before the Government for a considerable time. Representations on the subject had been made to him before the Estimates were prepared at the end of last year, and also since. No doubt, as the hon. baronet had said, the shipping trade at Albany had immensely increased, and the tonnage inwards and outwards was now very considerable, entailing additional work upon the Harbor Master's Department. But, in the face of the state of our finances, it had been found impossible to do what the Harbor Master at Fremantle, the head of the department, had strongly urged, namely, raise the salary of the Harbor Master and Pilot and of the Assistant Pilot at Albany to a level with the salary paid to the

same officials at Fremantle, and also provide extra hands for the boats. What the Government had done had been to level up the wages of the Albany crew to the same rates as were paid to the Fremantle and Rottnest crews. Had they not done this, doubtlessly the Harbor Master at Albany would have been unable to keep up the number of his men. With regard to the suggestion that the Harbor Master at Albany should be allowed forage allowance, that was a question which the House might take into its consideration when the departmental vote was under discussion. But he did not see himself how they were to do more now than they proposed doing, and that was to increase the wages of the men, putting them on a level with the Fremantle crews. He could assure the hon. member who had tabled the motion that the matter would not be lost sight of by the Government, whenever it felt itself in a position to come forward to increase the number of the harbor crew at King George's Sound, or to increase the salary of the Harbor Master himself and his assistant, especially knowing that the head of the department had strongly urged this being done.

MR. A. FORREST did not think it was the province of members to ask the Government to increase the public expenditure, at a time when the finances of the colony were in their present state, and when they had requested the Government to reduce their expenditure. He thought a member had no right to ask the Executive to increase the salaries of public officers, or to interfere with the working of any department by proposing to increase the staff. As a rule, he thought that increasing a man's salary did not make him work any harder, but rather made him more independent. He had no objection to the Harbor Master's crew at Albany receiving the same wages as the harbor crew at Fremantle, but he certainly objected to any member asking the Government to increase their expenditure in connection with any department. The Government were quite capable of doing that themselves, without being pressed to do it by members of that House.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL submitted that if the Government did not take means to provide the necessary

staff for efficiently carrying out the public service in the outlying districts, it was the province of the representative of the district to bring the matter under their consideration. Away from head quarters, the Government very often overlooked the wants of these outlying districts, and it was the duty of the members representing them to bring forward their requirements. The motion which he had submitted did not ask the Government to add anything to the Estimates; his object was simply to draw the attention of the authorities to the matter. He did not want to pit Fremantle against Albany, or Albany against Fremantle—he could not bear anything of the kind; but, if the hon. member had the figures before him he would see that there was a much larger number of vessels calling at Albany, and that the work of the harbor department was very arduous indeed. However, he was perfectly satisfied with the discussion which the motion had elicited, and the matter having thus been brought fully before the Government, he thought perhaps his best plan would be to withdraw the motion.

MR. MARMION said that, without in any way attempting or wishing to pit Fremantle against Albany, he thought at the same time it was only fair that the differing circumstances of the two places should be taken into consideration when dealing with the question of the expenditure connected with the harbor department. At Albany the steamers had no difficulty in approaching and entering the harbor without the services of a pilot, and it was only as a matter of routine that the masters of the mail steamers availed themselves of the services of a pilot. At Fremantle it was entirely different. The pilot generally boarded vessels a long distance off, and had to navigate them for many miles, and find a berth for them in an open roadstead. The circumstances were in no way analogous, and the work must necessarily be more arduous at Fremantle. The hon. baronet said that the staff at Albany had not been increased for the last twenty years. The same thing might be said with regard to the staff at Fremantle.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**THE GREENOUGH FLATS DISASTER:
REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION OF
ROADS.**

MR. HENSMAN, in accordance with notice, drew the attention of the House to the recent disastrous floods in the Greenough district, and moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing him that, in the opinion of the House, it was desirable—(1) that the macadamised road to connect the Front Flats with the railway be commenced at once, the cost being defrayed out of the unexpended loan moneys appropriated to the Greenough Railway; and (2) that it was further desirable that a sum of money should be voted for the immediate repair of the roads in the district which had been destroyed or injured by the floods." The hon. member felt sure he should have the sympathy of the House in moving this resolution. Whatever might be their political differences, he was sure no member would withhold his deepest sympathy with the unfortunate inhabitants of the Greenough district in the calamity which had overtaken them, by reason of the recent disastrous floods. Happily for this colony, such disasters as had lately happened in that district were of very rare occurrence. There were other parts of the world where the forces of Nature broke forth suddenly and irresistibly, causing enormous damage; but here we were free from any similar disasters of the same magnitude. There had been floods at the Greenough before now, but never, he believed, attended with such disastrous consequences as the recent one. He was not going to occupy the time of the House with any discursive remarks other than that he might say that, although this had been a grievous injury to some of the unfortunate persons whom he represented, yet it had not been entirely without good; because it had drawn forth from every part of the colony a unanimous and strong expression of public sympathy, which had been shown not only in words but in a substantial and practical manner. It had also done this: it had shown that while the flood was washing down and sweeping away houses and property, there were individuals in the district who behaved with a courage—one might almost say with a heroism—which would

always be remembered with satisfaction by the people of Western Australia. There was one gentleman to whom he did wish, in his place in that House, to allude, and that was the Government Resident (Mr. Maitland Brown). Mr. Brown was formerly a member of that House, and acted as the leader of the Opposition, or of the elected members; therefore he was well known to all of them, and he (Mr. Hensman) was certain that the House would know that he was speaking the fact when he said that Mr. Brown, during the whole time that the unfortunate sufferers were in the greatest need, behaved with courage, with the utmost energy, and with the greatest kindness. Having had an opportunity of hearing on the spot what was thought and said of the efforts which Mr. Brown, as the representative of the Government, made on that occasion, he might safely say that there was but one feeling throughout the district, and that was that he behaved in every respect as the representative of the Government should do on such an occasion, and that he had earned for himself—even if he had not previously done so—the gratitude and respect of the people of that part of the colony. Mr. Brown's report was now before the House, and with regard to that report he might here say that the Government Resident behaved with what appeared to many in almost too scrupulous a manner. Although the people of the district and their neighbors were naturally anxious to know the real amount of damage caused by the floods, yet they were told that the report, being the property of the Government, he could not, until he had leave, disclose its contents or publish it. Whether the Government Resident was over-scrupulous in this respect or not, his report was now before the House. He was not going through it further than to remind hon. members of the leading statements made in it, which they all knew might be relied upon. Mr. Brown had reported that he had visited 90 homes—hon. members, if they gave the matter a thought, would see what an immense amount of labor that must have entailed—and that he had found that the direct loss, in the way of property, which these families had suffered amounted to nearly £10,000. Beyond that, they were told that the damage done to the roads of the district would

extend to about £2,000, and the damage to the railway and the telegraph would amount to between £600 and £700. Altogether, the Government Resident thought that the floods did direct damage to the extent of nearly £12,000. Mr. Brown said he had not taken into consideration—because he was not in a position to estimate—what would be the consequential loss to those whose land was at this moment under water. It would hardly be credited by hon. members, unless they had seen it, or read of it, or heard of it, that there were at the present moment, weeks after the occurrence, two tracts of land of he should imagine from seven to ten square miles still under water; and it was probable that the water would remain on that land for at least a year, and it was to be expected that the winter rains would increase the volume of the water, the whole of this part of the district presenting the appearance of an inland lake. It was impossible to estimate what would be the indirect loss to those whose land was submerged. The Government Resident had reported that even with regard to the direct loss entailed he estimated that there were at least twenty families the members of which would have to be supplied from time to time with food and clothing. These were the worst cases. There were at least twenty others who would be utterly unable to supply themselves with seed wheat, when the time came; and Mr. Brown recommended an early expenditure, pointing out the great need of assistance both on the part of the public and of the Government. With regard to the roads, the Government Resident recommended that there should be an early expenditure of £1,000, and that the work should be undertaken by the settlers, and he used an expression which he (Mr. Hensman) was sure would commend itself to that House when he said that he believed these works would be for the benefit of the State. Hon. members were aware that the Greenough District was a most fertile part of the colony, capable of growing a very much larger amount of wheat and potatoes than it had been growing. It was a splendid agricultural district, and if anything should happen to retard its progress and settlement, it would be, as the Government Resident said, an injury to the State. The resolu-

tions standing in his name were two, the first being one that had been before the House on a previous occasion in the form of a question and answer. He had asked that a certain amount of money should be expended in providing an approach for the settlers of the Front Flats to the railway. When this railway was constructed there had been a great difference of opinion as to where it should go—whether through the Front Flats or the Back Flats, but, as the result of an official inquiry, it was taken along the Back Flats, which were separated from the Front Flats by certain sandy ridges, which practically cut them off from the railway, unless a road were made. The consequence was that the majority of the settlers on the Front Flats were practically deprived of nearly any benefit from the railway. What the inhabitants wished, and what they had requested him to ask the Commissioner last year, was this—whether it was not desirable that a macadamised road should be made from the Front Flats over the range which separated them from the railway, and that further landings or platforms on the railway, with good approaches thereto, should also be made, and whether the Government was prepared to take the necessary steps for the carrying out of these works? To these questions the Commissioner's reply was that a macadamised road connecting the Greenough Front Flats with the railway was desirable, and that so soon as the best line for such a road had been determined and the funds provided, the road could be made. The Government would communicate with the Roads Board on the subject, and that should the traffic render additional platforms necessary the matter would be considered. Therefore they had it that the Commissioner himself had admitted—as indeed he was bound to admit—that this railway could never become of use to the majority of the people on the Front Flats, or become a paying concern, until there was communication established between them and the railway by means of a good macadamised road. Lately, at probably the largest meeting ever held in the district, it was unanimously carried that it was desirable that the unexpended balance of the Greenough railway loan money

should be at once expended in making a road or roads connecting the Front with the Back Flats, in view of the fact that such work would prove reproductive, and at the same time be likely to afford, in its construction, temporary relief to the distressed farmers of the district. Another resolution adopted at the same meeting spoke of the route, with regard to which he believed everyone there agreed, that it should be along what was described as the Hamersley road, over the ridge, where it met another road. He was perfectly aware that the other evening he spoke, perhaps too plainly, as to the diversion of loan moneys, and said that he would never be a party to such diversion, and, in the present case, he would not have come forward to ask that the unexpended balance of this railway loan money—something between £1,000 and £2,000 he believed—should be expended upon this road unless he saw that the railway having been built, and a station house ready to be used, but no road to bring traffic to the railway, the line therefore could not pay, until such road was made. The main bulk of the population was on the Front Flats, and unless you tapped those Flats you never could make this railway pay. All he asked was that the Front Flats be tapped; and the present was a good time for doing so, there being a number of men in the district out of employment, and we had this unexpended balance left for the very purpose of improving the railway and increasing the traffic. He was sure that House would be glad to follow the example of the public in the generous way in which they had come forward to assist the people in the district in this the hour of their great calamity. With regard to the second part of his resolution, it would be seen that he had not mentioned any particular sum, leaving it to the House to suggest what amount should be asked for, or to the Government to say how much they would be prepared to spend, in putting the roads of the district in repair. He had recently been over a great many of these roads which had been injured by the floods. The main road was an excellent road before the floods came and washed away the greatest part of the surface. As to the minor roads, they

were in some places so broken up that they were positively dangerous, and, if any hon. member had been so nearly thrown out of a vehicle as he had been, when riding with the utmost care and in the day time, on one of these roads, he would have had a very practical lesson of the danger. He had since had a letter from a resident of the district, who informed him that there were holes in this road that would "swallow a hay stack." The unfortunate settlers could only look to the Legislature to help them in their extremity. The Government, he observed, had put £500 on the Estimates towards the repair of these roads, and £500 to provide the farmers with seed corn. But the Government Resident said that the damage to the roads was about £2,000, and private sources of information confirmed the Government Resident's estimate; and Mr. Brown recommended the immediate expenditure of £1,000 upon the roads. There were many promises of seed corn from the general public; and the people of the district would rather have a sum of money to provide them with work. He would suggest that at least £1,000 be appropriated for this purpose, as suggested by the Government Resident; he thought he might very fairly ask for £1,500. He did not often press the claims of the district which he represented; he did not know that he had ever taken up the time of the House in doing so. But this was an occasion on which he was sure he should be pardoned for doing so. It was an occasion which he trusted would never happen again, and he was sure the House would acknowledge that the case he had put before it was a good one. It had been acknowledged by the public, throughout the colony, to be a good one, and he desired to avail himself of this opportunity of thanking them, on behalf of his constituents, for their generosity. It now remained for the Legislature to do their share, and he believed that on this occasion the members of that House would gladly do what they could to assist the inhabitants of a district, suffering under one of the greatest calamities that had happened for many years, certainly in this colony.

MR. LAYMAN felt great pleasure in seconding the resolution. He did not believe, as a rule, in re-appropriating

money, but this was certainly an exceptional case. This was a surplus that was left over after the railway itself was completed, and, as the railway was of no use to the settlers without a road to it, he thought that to spend the balance in providing them with a road could not be regarded as anything wrong. Even if it were, they had a precedent for it; they had the Government last session coming forward with a proposal that was much more flagrant than this. He hoped the House would take the same view of the matter as he did, and support the resolution.

MR. A. FORREST said it was his intention to support the resolution. One of the most important districts of the colony had been visited by a most destructive flood, and unless substantial help was given to the farmers who had suffered it would be a loss to the country generally, the district being one of the most important agricultural districts of the colony. As to the question of re-appropriation, so far as that was concerned, he considered this was more of a misappropriation than the diversion of the harbor works loan money for the construction of the Kimberley telegraph line, as that diversion had been legalised by an Act of Council. At the same time he had no wish to oppose the present proposal; he thought the House could not do too much for the sufferers by the late flood, and if the proposal was to vote them £5,000 instead of £1,000 it would have had his support.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the hon. member who had brought forward the resolution had referred to the settlers of the Greenough as "unfortunate." He thought they were anything but unfortunate in having such a powerful pleader as the hon. member who represented them in that House. He agreed with what had been stated that we ought to do all we could for the sufferers by the late flood. He thought the action of the Government Resident was such as must command the approval of the House and of the colony at large. He thought they had been fortunate in the extreme in having such a man as Mr. Maitland Brown in such an emergency—a man in whom everybody had the most perfect confidence, and who had acted

throughout the late calamity just as might have been expected by those who knew the Government Resident, and more than could have been expected. No doubt, Mr. Brown had behaved nobly throughout, and the district was fortunate in having such a man to act in such an emergency. The question now came as to the motion before the House. The hon. member proposed in the first place that there should be a line of road made from the Front Flats to the Back Flats. This was not the first time that this proposal had been brought before the House. It had already been approved by the Government, and he thought it could fairly be regarded as a very proper appropriation of the unexpended balance of the loan money. But they were in this position: the Government, as he had stated last session, entered into communication with the District Roads Board asking them where they would like to have this road, and where it would best serve the interests of the district. The answer which they got was that they didn't want a road at all—they wouldn't have it under any circumstance; they simply reopened the question of a railway through the Front Flats, and nothing but a railway would satisfy them. Very probably the recent calamity had had the result of modifying and moderating their demands, and they were now prepared to accept a road, as the lesser of two evils—that was, a means of transit or none at all. The Government had immediately complied with the wish of the hon. member for the district, as expressed last session, and endeavored to meet the requirements of the district, but the Roads Board had blocked the way. He might say that out of the unexpended balance referred to a sum of £570 had up to the present time been spent in repairs to the railway itself; it had been spent in providing work for the unemployed in the district. Therefore to a certain extent the Government had already done its duty, so far. Further than that, a sum of £500 had been placed on the Estimates to provide the farmers with seed corn, and a further sum of £500 for repairing the roads; and he thought that in the present financial condition of the colony, and seeing the noble way in which the public throughout the colony had come forward to assist the sufferers

by the late flood, he thought the aid thus given to the Greenough settlers was as much as could be expected, more especially when it was borne in mind that the benefit which the district would derive from the inundation would be correspondingly as great as the rising of the Nile caused in Egypt. He considered that the amount of good which would eventually result from the late flood would far more than counterbalance the damage done, more especially when it was borne in mind that, including public contributions, about £2,500 had been already allotted for the benefit of the district, which was more than the hon. member asked for.

MR. HENSMAN, referring to the action of the Roads Board, said he understood that what the Board had asked for was a sort of loop line connecting the Front Flats with the railway. But the recent misfortune had caused the Board to modify its request, and they were now satisfied if they got a macadamised road. With regard to the second resolution, perhaps it would be advisable to leave it to the Government to fix the sum which they would be prepared to set apart for road repair, bearing in mind the suggestion of their own representative on the spot, the Government Resident.

The resolution was then put and passed.

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1888.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

MR. SHENTON said as the hon. member for Perth, who had moved the adjournment of the debate, was unfortunately not present to resume it, he proposed to say a few words on the Estimates now before the House. It would be recollected that when the Government brought down their original Estimates for the year, they came down with a proposal to meet a deficiency in the revenue by re-appropriating certain loan money. To this the House objected, considering that, if possible, the Government, during the adjournment, should endeavor to revise their Estimates so as to bring them within the estimated revenue. This they had done, and, for his own part, he desired to express his acknowledgment of the trouble which the Government had taken in the matter, in bringing down to the House a balance sheet which showed their proposed expenditure to be within

the amount of their estimated revenue. Speaking the other evening on the financial position of the colony, the Colonial Secretary, he was afraid, took too gloomy a view of the state of affairs. He (Mr. Shenton) had looked through the amount of revenue received during the last three years, and he saw nothing to give rise to any serious apprehension. The revenue in 1885 amounted to £323,213 2s. 11d.; in 1886 to £388,564 1s. 4d.; and, last year, to £377,903 16s. 2d. This last amount certainly showed a deficiency of £10,660 5s. 2d. as compared with the previous year; but he thought that deficiency was easily explained. It was caused by our land revenue being over-estimated. The land revenue for 1887 had been estimated at £105,000, whereas it only realised £76,930, which gave a deficiency of £28,000. If they deducted that deficiency, and compared it with the actual deficiency in the gross revenue for 1887 as compared with the revenue for 1886, they would find that the revenue for the former year was £17,409 over and above the revenue for 1886. The deficiency between the estimated and the actual land revenue last year was caused by the fact that the Commissioner overlooked the exceptionally large amount received in the previous year from the proceeds of the sale of town lots at Derby and Cambridge Gulf. Land sales in 1886 yielded no less than £20,000, whereas last year the receipts from the same source only amounted to £5,825 12s. 6d., showing a deficiency of over £14,000 in this item alone. Another serious mistake was made in the estimated revenue from rents of land, which was put down at £77,000, whereas the amount realised was only £66,715, showing a deficiency of over £10,000. In the estimate of receipts from miner's rights an equal mistake was made, the estimate being £5,000, whereas the actual receipts did not realise more than £688 12s., disclosing a deficiency of £4,311 8s., owing to the Kimberley goldfields, unfortunately, not turning out the success we had anticipated. Taking these items into consideration, the deficiency in the annual revenue last year, as compared with the preceding year, was easily accounted for. But he did not think there was anything to be afraid of in the finances of the colony. With the exception of these over-esti-

mated items, the revenue had been gradually increasing, year by year. Last year it was £54,690 over and above the revenue of 1885. The present position of affairs was, he thought, attributable in a great measure to the extravagance which the large surpluses they had in past years had given rise to. No doubt, when they found there was a large amount standing to the credit of the colony, money was voted very freely for public works in all directions, and he was afraid they got into rather extravagant ways for which the colony was now to a certain extent suffering. But, with the reduced Estimates now laid before them, and with the improved circumstances of the colony, and the promise of favorable seasons, he thought there was nothing to fear in the prospects of the colony during the coming year. On looking through the revised Estimates he regretted to find that the Government had felt it necessary to make a reduction of no less than £11,000 under the head of "Works and Buildings." This was unfortunate; but, under the circumstances of the case, he hardly saw what else the Government could have done. They had done what they could to meet the wishes of the House in cutting down expenditure, more especially as regards the Police Department and the Works and Railways Department. In going through the Estimates, item by item, no doubt each vote would have to be carefully considered, and possibly they might see their way clear to make further reductions, and he hoped that by so doing they would find themselves with funds in hand to provide for some other works, which the Government had not felt justified in placing on these revised Estimates.

MR. HENSMAN said he desired to say a few words, and he did so really more as a formal protest against the condition of the finances than for any purpose of exhaustive argument, for he was inclined to agree with the Colonial Secretary, when he introduced this subject a night or two ago, that the sooner we passed into details the better, for this reason—it was no good now crying over spilt milk. It was no good attempting to alter the figures placed before them, and the facts that were before them;

therefore it might be as well, without spending any more time, to go at once into details. But, before doing so, he desired to say this: he agreed with the last speaker, that they must separate the financial condition of the colony as it was now put before them from the substantial position of the colony and its future prospects. He was not one of those who were inclined at all to admit that this colony, if properly managed, and its finances properly conducted, was not in a most sound and substantial condition; but, at the same time, they could not conceal from themselves the fact that, as the finances were put before them by the Government, they disclosed a very lamentable state of things. It had been said that one of the best tests—it might be a rough test—of good government was the financial condition of a country—how did the Government manage the public finances? He thought he could remember a sort of axiom that was propounded, four or five years ago, and emanating from the Government, to the effect that the financial policy of this colony required—or at all events rendered it desirable—that there should always be a sum of at least £30,000 in the Treasury chest. If they turned to the Estimates now placed before them they would find that the estimated credit balance on the 31st December next was only £668 4s. 7d.; and, if they were to believe what appeared in one of the newspapers that morning, even this sum was not likely to be there, and their surplus balance dwindled down to the sum of £38. Be that as it may, they had been told that it was sound financial policy for this colony to have no less than £30,000 in the chest, and now, even on the estimate of the Government—and they were told that the increased revenue expected under the new tariff was only speculative—there was only a balance of £668 expected at the end of the year. As he had already said, there was the fact; it was no good talking about it; but it did appear to him to be a very unfortunate state of affairs. The Colonial Secretary went on to say that it might be the painful duty of the Government on a future occasion to have to considerably reduce its departmental expenditure. With regard to the reduction already proposed—amounting to about £21,000—in various departments,

he was quite aware that it had been said that part of that reduction was desirable because certain loan works had been finished. He hoped they would not have to go further and put the Government in this dilemma: did these reductions provide for a proper working staff to carry on the business of the civil service, in all the departments? If it did, then the question arose, how was it that the Government could reduce their expenditure by £21,000? Did it not rather tend to show either that the expenditure had now been reduced below proper working level, or else that the expenditure in the past was unnecessary? That perhaps was a question which they might hope at some future time to have answered. The Colonial Secretary, in introducing these Estimates said we were not yet over the "dead point." Judging by the way the finances of the colony had been managed of late, Estimates put forward and Estimates withdrawn, reappropriation of loan moneys suggested to swell up the revenue, and matters of that kind, it appeared to him we were never likely to be over the "dead point" in this colony until the present Government had ceased to exist, and the colony was managed by men who were responsible for all they did to the people; for he would not acquit the Government, as some did, of blame because of pressure brought to bear upon them by that House. He could well understand that a responsible Minister, anxious to retain power, and knowing that he retained it only by a vote of the House, might wish to please the House, and might give way in what he thought would be right to the wishes of the Legislature as regards the expenditure of public money. But when you had a Government that was immovable, and which no vote of the House could dismiss from office, when they had an Administration that was responsible only to Her Majesty's Government in England, he should say that such an Administration ought to be above seeking to get favor from that House, or to be popular with the House. Seeing that under the present form of Government the members of that House could not initiate any expenditure, the Government, to his mind, was not in the slightest degree to be absolved from responsibility, because that House—

to use language which he had read in one of the papers that day—had "bullied" it to spend money. He could understand the House "bullying" a weak minister, who felt he might lose his seat, unless he sought to conciliate the House. A Government that was dependent upon retaining power upon the vote of the House might be justified perhaps in giving way; but there was no justification for a Government such as ours to allow the finances of the colony to have got into the condition our finances were now in. As already said, he had risen simply to record his protest against this mismanagement of the public finances.

MR. A. FORREST said he should like to express his acknowledgment of the care taken by the Government in the revision of the Estimates; at the same time he must express his surprise at the fact that the Government had expressed no intention of initiating any new public work, and of raising a loan for that purpose. If the Government had taken the advice of the members of that House in July last, and brought down a Loan Bill, the finances of the colony would not now have been in their present unsatisfactory position. The Government were told distinctly last year by people who were in a position to know, that the initiation of public works was necessary to enable the colony to tide over its present financial troubles. But he was sorry to say there was not one on the Government benches who understood anything about finance. They did not understand what the word meant. The Governor himself had acknowledged that the Government could no longer manage the affairs of the colony under the present constitution, and they were told by the Colonial Secretary the other day that, notwithstanding the reductions that had been made in the estimated expenditure, it was not at all unlikely that we should have a deficit at the end of the year. And how was it that they proposed to reduce the expenditure? By cutting down the most necessary votes on the Estimates—works and buildings, roads, and immigration. As he told them a year ago, they need not bother their heads about immigration, unless they started some public works. The only case of reduction for which the Government deserved any credit was the re-

duction in the vote for the Police Department, which had been reduced by £4,200. He believed if they had proposed to reduce this vote by £10,000 they would have met with general support. There were too many policemen altogether, concentrated in the central towns. They also proposed to reduce the vote for surveys. He was not going to cavil at this, but he must protest against the whole of the money being spent in the South-west division of the colony. He thought the North was fairly entitled to its share of it, and he hoped the members for the Northern districts would see that some of the money went to that part of the colony. He himself was dissatisfied altogether with the present state of affairs. He said so twelve months ago, and he said so now. He supposed they were now as far off from getting Responsible Government as they were a year ago, and as far off from getting a loan. He thought at any rate they ought to get a public works loan this session, and he hoped the Government, before the House rose, would bring in a bill for that purpose, which was very urgent. If they didn't do so, they would find that by next session there would be hardly anybody left in the colony. People were leaving in hundreds, because they could not obtain employment; and the Government knew this as well as he did. There were deputations every day asking them to initiate public works; but it was no use. If the Yilgarn goldfields turned out to be a failure, the colony would be in a worse state that day six months than it had ever been in during the last twenty years.

MR. MARMION said it was not his intention to address himself to the main subject of the Estimates, but, as one of those who, on previous occasions, had endorsed what had fallen from the hon. member for Kimberley as to the state of the labor market, and the absolute necessity on the part of the Government to take prompt action as regard the initiation of public works, he should like to say a word or two on the same subject. He thought the responsibility of the Government in this respect had rather increased than decreased since he addressed the House before on the subject. The hon. member for Kimberley

perhaps was not in as good a position as he was—residing in the principal port of the colony—to observe the exodus of people going from the colony. This exodus had been most noticeable during the last few months; many of the very best of our laborers, the bone and sinew of the colony, were leaving it by every opportunity,—men which it had cost us a heavy sum to introduce into the colony. Last year he reminded the Government that there was a crisis in the affairs of nations as well as of individuals, when a bold policy was necessary to enable them to tide over their difficulties, and to dispel the clouds of adversity. This colony had had its clouds of adversity, but, thank God, he believed they were fast being dispelled, though the critical moment had not been taken advantage of by the Government. He believed himself that the Government was to a very great extent responsible for the exodus that had taken place, and was still taking place, in consequence of their not being able to realise the gravity of the situation, and to adopt a policy suitable for the emergency,—a policy that would soon have been adopted had we been under another form of Government. He said so, though no great lover of that form of Government. No ministry could have retained office for any time, if, in such a crisis as this colony was passing through, it had failed to realise the position of affairs and to grapple with it boldly and effectually. It was useless, however, as had been said by one hon. member, to cry over spilt milk. At the same time he must join with the hon. member for Kimberley in suggesting to the Government that it was not yet too late for them to do something that would enable the colony to tide over this critical time, and instil some confidence in the people, and prevent them from leaving our shores—possibly not to better themselves—as they had been doing for some months past. It might be said that a difficulty presented itself in the shape of ways and means. But in the hands of a financier that was a difficulty that surely might be overcome. There was no reason that he could see why at the present time the colony could not go in for a loan of at least a quarter of a million. It was nonsense to say that because the colony was politically in

a transition state this policy could not be adopted. In what was the position of the colony altered? We still had the same huge territory at our back, as a security for British investors. The British public would not stop to inquire whether the colony was in a transition state or not, or what we were going to spend the money upon. With the security which we were in a position to offer, it was for us to say whether we wished to borrow a quarter or half a million, and the British public would be perfectly satisfied that we possessed the necessary brains and genius to determine how that money could be most beneficially expended. It only wanted a bold policy on the part of the Government of the colony to enable us to steer through this crisis, and to enable the colony, in a few months, or at all events in a year or two, to emerge with new vigor, and to enable those who were now frightened at shadows to say to themselves, "What silly people we were, to be frightened by such spectres!" He had hoped that the Government would have seen and realised the position of the colony, and come to the rescue. Although the present was only what might be termed a temporary session, and they were not called together for the purpose of dealing with this question, still he saw no reason why the Government should not have the courage to adopt a bold and vigorous policy. But they had not done so, and, unfortunately, he was not in a position to compel them to do so. Were he in that position, he should most decidedly do so, and, were he in a position of responsibility, he would risk that position in putting forward a bold and vigorous policy at the present stage. Why should we be alarmed? Had the other colonies been alarmed, when they encountered a period of adversity? Had the statesmen of those colonies become frightened at spectres and shadows? No, they laughed them to scorn, and, confident in the stability of their country, had come forward with a bold and invigorating policy, entering the London money market without hesitation, to enable them to tide over a period of temporary depression. This was the policy adopted by the South Australian Government,—and this colony was in a better position, financially, than South Australia, or any other colony of the group. This colony as yet was in the early stage of borrowing, whereas our neighbors, some of them, had come pretty well to the end of their tether, for the present. Our public debt did not amount to more than £30 per head of the population, whereas in South Australia the public debt amounted to £60 per head of the population. Moreover, we had all our resources as yet undeveloped, whereas South Australia had many of its resources developed years ago. He must say it appeared to him a most insane policy, and a most inane policy, on the part of the Government to put off borrowing for public works of utility, and to allow people, who had cost the country thousands of pounds to bring them here, to quit our shores because they could get no work to do. Having said so much, it was not his intention to go at the present moment into the details of the revised Estimates, because he should have an opportunity of doing so, as each item came before the committee. But he might say, if there was one thing that showed the weakness of the present position it was this: that, although at the last session they were informed that there was no other method of restoring the financial equilibrium except by reappropriating to revenue no less than £52,000 of loan money—a proposal which he opposed with the utmost vigor, as a suicidal policy—they now found the Government, awaking to a sense of their responsibility, putting forward Estimates which brought their expenditure within the ordinary revenue, without having resort to any reappropriation of loan funds. As he had said last year, the proper course for the Government, instead of proposing to make use of the loan money to bolster up the revenue, was to have brought in a small or a large Loan Bill, including the amounts which had been expended out of the revenue, in times of prosperity, upon works that should have been undertaken out of loan, and so restoring these amounts to the general revenue. That would have been a legitimate course to have adopted; and he saw no reason why the Government should not at the present session come down with a Loan Bill of £250,000. The Government might ask, Where are the ways and means to meet such a bill? All he could say was, let

them come down with their bill, and he would guarantee, with other members, to show them where the ways and means to pay the interest were to come from. Unless they were prepared to do this, that "hope deferred" which "maketh the heart sick" would, he felt sure, have the result of continuing and increasing the present exodus. The course of action pursued by the Government during the last few months had been a stupid one, and one calculated to create a feeling of public despondency and alarm. He only hoped that other members would join him in endeavoring to induce the Government to adopt a bolder course, and not to be discouraged or alarmed at the future of the colony, which, with proper management, would be much brighter and more prosperous than any period of its past existence.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he had great respect for his hon. friend, the member for Fremantle; they were about the only two members who were there when the present constitution was introduced. But he was more patient than his hon. friend. He had sat there listening to a great many charges against the Government, some of them friendly charges, others malignant charges. He had sat there again that evening, and heard some very serious charges against the Government, and his patience was not exhausted. But he would say this, and he said it without hesitation—he blamed the members of that House for the present position of affairs, he blamed them for their dilatoriness, for their apathy, for their lack of energy, in bringing about that constitutional change which was to get rid of what they regarded as an "effete" form of Government. Why did not the hon. member for Fremantle himself reconcile his sentiments with his action? Why had not the hon. member given the Reform Party that strong support which, judging by the sentiments he had expressed that evening, he ought to have given them, in order that the change of constitution which it was said was desirable should become an accomplished fact? Why had not hon. members gone hand in hand and brought about this much wished for change,—a change which the Government itself had admitted was possibly desirable? Why

had not the advocates of the change gone forward boldly and completed their work? It was all very well to have one's cake, but one couldn't have his cake and eat it. Hon. members knew very well what had become of the surpluses of past years. They couldn't spend these surpluses on public works, and in providing the necessities of a growing colony, and yet have them in the treasury chest. Hon. members knew too well that the present political position of the colony, taken together with its financial position (as had been pointed out by the Secretary of State in his despatches) rendered it undesirable that we should go into the money market at the present time, and seek to raise a fresh loan, while the colony was in its present state of transition. Therefore it was that he blamed hon. members, and his hon. friend the member for Fremantle among them, for not pressing forward their reform schemes, and completing that change in the constitution which they were all agreed was necessary. He blamed hon. members for their apathy, for their indifference, their want of unanimity, and their hesitation in consummating the change which they professed to be so anxious to bring about. Instead of that, they were always falling back in blaming and hampering, or endeavoring to hamper, the Executive Government. As for himself he could bear it all. These charges fell upon him like water on a duck's back. It was his duty to bear them, and with patience. But he could not admit, nor would he admit, that the Government of the day were not fully alive in every way to the position of the colony and its requirements, equally so with any other member. It must not be supposed that because one was passive and silent, that one was also senseless, or without wisdom at all. There was such a thing as policy. There was such a thing as diplomacy. Hon. members must not run away with the idea that the occupants of the Government benches were not fully alive to what would be best for the colony, if all the surrounding circumstances admitted of their taking action in the matter. It was not necessary for him to continue these remarks. All he wished to convey was that hon. members had no right to blame the Government for not doing this, or for doing that, when hon. members had

brought the colony into its present state of transition. Why had they not followed their resolutions by consummating that change which they were desirous of bringing about, under which the colony would govern its own affairs, and the rights of the people should be fully recognised. God knew he was anxious to maintain the rights of the people, in their true and proper sense, as much as any man, though he did not believe in mob rule or mob oratory. But he believed the time might arrive when the colonists of Western Australia should have the same right to manage their own affairs as the colonists of the other parts of the continent. At the same time he must say it appeared to him that hon. members were not going the right way to work. And, let him tell them, as one of the oldest members of that House, that if they had shown a more generous spirit in regard to the actions of the Government up to the present time, and if they had also shown a bolder policy in the advocacy of that change which he believed every one of them who had been elected by the people was now pledged to support; if they had all put their shoulders to the wheel, in order to obtain that change, without the least halt or hindrance, they would have been giving assistance to the Government of the day, and doing the best thing they could for the colony, by ensuring its progress, and rendering unnecessary any further delay in the prosecution of public works and the initiation of loans, with the view of developing the colony, which he was sure they were all, whether on that side of the House or on this side, anxious to see. He only trusted that there would be a more harmonious feeling prevailing amongst them during the remainder of the session, as had been the case in days gone by, not only as regards the expenditure for the year, but also with regard to those conditions which might be thought essential in arranging for the new order of things that were to supersede the present constitution.

MR. SCOTT said he endorsed the sentiments which had been expressed by the hon. member for Fremantle. He had been very much in favor of a small loan being entered upon just at this particular juncture, and he thought that the Government had committed itself to that policy,

in so much that it was admitted by them last year that there were several large amounts on the Supplementary Estimates that ought to come out of a loan, and that would have to be charged to Loan Account hereafter. With regard to the proposed reappropriation of loan money to make up the deficiency in the revenue, it was not so much the reappropriation that the House objected to as the idea that we should be living upon loan money. Very largely the amount of our over expenditure in the past had been due to the opening up and development of new country, such as the Kimberley district, and there had been a considerable amount of unforeseen expenditure in connection with our Railway Department, which ought to have been charged to loan account. There was no necessity, in his opinion, for any feeling of alarm as to the position of the colony; all they wanted was the exercise of a little sound judgment in restoring the financial equilibrium, and equalising the revenue and expenditure. He thought the Government ought to be better able to foresee what was likely to be the expenditure for the year than they had shown themselves to be, and to look forward and prepare for contingencies. Our goldfields so far had not been a source of revenue, but, on the contrary, a source of expenditure, and this was another reason why we should contract another loan and initiate public works of utility, to enable the colony to tide over a period of temporary depression. He agreed with the hon. member for Fremantle that we ought not to delay in entering upon a bold and progressive policy, and he thought the Government were to blame that it had not done so before now, and gone into the money market. There was every reason to feel confident that we could get the money on favorable terms, looking at the position which Western Australian stock now held in the market. The borrowing of a quarter of a million at the present time would prove an immense benefit, if judiciously expended, and would enable the colony to tide over a crisis which had not yet passed by. He hoped the Government might yet be induced to take into consideration the advisability of going into the money market, otherwise we might find that at the end of the year we should have no balance at all

to our credit, but rather be a long way behind.

MR. VENN moved that progress be reported, and the debate adjourned until Monday.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) objected to the adjournment. Unwilling as he was to take up the time of the House with any remarks, he thought they ought to remember that they had met for the purpose of work, and they had done nothing as yet but adjourn everything brought before them. Hon. members were aware that supplies had only been voted up to the 31st of the month, and they were now within a fortnight of that date, and not a single item of the Estimates had yet been passed. Was that assembly to become a perfect farce? Was it in order to make the present system of Government ridiculous that the work was put off in this way, day after day? He thought they ought to bear in mind that there was such a thing as fair play, and, whatever might be said about the present Constitution they ought, so long as it remained, to give it fair play. They had met for the purpose of doing certain work, and amongst it the passing of these Estimates, and the sooner they went on with the items the better. He would willingly sit there until six o'clock in the morning, as he had often done in the House of Commons, rather than go through the disgraceful farce of putting off every question, night after night. He must protest against such waste of time.

The committee divided on the motion to report progress, and the numbers being equal, the CHAIRMAN gave his casting vote with the Noes.

Governor's Establishment, £743 16s. 8d.:

MR. SHENTON asked why the salary of the office keeper, in the Governor's office, was increased from £30 to £100?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the officer in question was a member of the late Enrolled Guard, and, since the force had been disbanded, he had lost his Imperial pay, and it was necessary that his salary should be made up out of colonial funds.

The item was agreed to.

Legislative Council, £1,175:

Agreed to, without comment.

Colonial Secretary's Department, £1,689:

MR. HENSMAN said he observed that

the salary of the Assistant Colonial Secretary was reduced from £500 to £450. He thought it would have been a graceful thing, in the present state of the finances, if the members of the Executive had proposed a reduction in their own salaries, especially when it was borne in mind that the Government were responsible for the state of the finances. He did not think there was a proper ratio, or a proper balance, preserved between the salaries of the members of the Executive. He thought that both in the case of the Attorney General and of the Commissioner of Crown Lands their salaries should bear a more proper proportion than they did with the salaries of the Colonial Secretary and of the Commissioner of Railways. The office of Attorney General was one that required a lawyer of learning and experience to fill it; and in the Surveyor General they had a man of great experience, and he did not think that these two officers were treated fairly as regards the amount of their salaries, compared with what the other members of the Executive received. In the present state of our finances he thought we ought to adopt the levelling down process, and reduce the salaries of the Colonial Secretary and of the Commissioner of Railways to a level with the salaries of the other two members of the Executive; but, if the state of the finances warranted it, he should be glad to see the offices of the Attorney General and the Surveyor General placed on a footing with the salaries of the more highly paid members of the Executive.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he always noticed that the hon. member for Greenough displayed a lamentable ignorance of facts. If the hon. member had referred to the report of a committee appointed some time ago to deal with the question of salaries, he would have found that the salary of the Assistant Colonial Secretary was raised to £500, in the case of a particular officer who had held the appointment for many years, and it was raised in his case on the distinct understanding that the salary of his successor should revert to the salary previously attaching to the office. The officer whose salary was raised had since received another appointment, and the present

holder of the office had accepted the position at the salary now provided on the Estimates.

MR. A. FORREST said he agreed with the hon. member for the Greenough that the salaries of certain members of the Executive were too low, as compared with the salaries received by other members. But he should be sorry to see any reduction made. On the contrary he thought the members of the Executive were all rather underpaid. He knew, if he accepted a ministerial position under Responsible Government he would expect at least £1,500 a year.

Progress was at this stage reported, leave being given to sit again on March 19th.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 19th March, 1888.

Telegraph line between Roebourne and Derby: Terms of contract—Lodging allowance to certain members of the Police Force—Protection of left bank of the Gascoyne river fronting Carnarvon—Fees received in respect of Protection Areas and Miners' Rights—Estimates, 1888; further considered—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

TELEGRAPH LINE BETWEEN ROEBOURNE AND DERBY.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works—

1st. When the date of contract expires for Telegraph line between Roebourne and Derby?

2nd. What is the penalty to be enforced if the line is not completed by date of contract?

3rd. Do the Government intend to enforce the penalty for non-completion?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied—

1st. The date of the Contract expires on the 31st March, 1888.

2nd. The penalty for non-completion is fixed at £20 per working day from that date.

3rd. It can hardly be expedient to state now what the Government may consider necessary in a case which may possibly never occur.

LODGING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE POLICE FORCE.

MR. SHENTON, in pursuance of notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, what amount of lodging allowance was now being paid to the members of the police force who inhabited the Barracks previous to the late fire?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) replied: At the rate of £150 a year.

PROTECTION OF LEFT BANK OF THE GASCOYNE RIVER.

MR. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, moved, That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to have placed on the Estimates for 1888 a sum of money sufficient for the purpose of protecting (either by bushing, staking, or other means) the left bank of the Gascoyne river fronting the township of Carnarvon. The hon. member said that moving the address he felt he should be met with the general reply, "No funds"; still he felt it to be his duty to publicly call the attention of the Government to the necessity of doing something, as speedily as possible, for the protection of the river banks at Carnarvon. He thought the Director of Public Works was fully alive to the necessity of this work, and probably the only stumbling-block was the lack of funds to carry it out. The town of Carnarvon was built close to the river, and for years past, every time that the river came down, it washed away the banks,