

forcing it, it would be much more likely to have a deterrent effect.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said it appeared to him that if there was bribery, the person who offered the bribe, and who placed the temptation in the way of the voter, was the more guilty of the two, and that his punishment ought to be the more severe. It was not likely that anybody would go to the trouble of prosecuting an impecunious voter in the Supreme Court, and he thought it would be better to make the amount of the fine recoverable in the Local Court.

MR. PARKER pointed out that this bribery might take place in some remote district of the colony—at the North, for instance—and it would be absurd to bring such cases down to the Supreme Court. If the amendment were adopted the real result would be, that the person bribed would never be punished, and the Act would remain a dead letter, so far as he was concerned. The clause, as it stood, was far more likely to have a salutary effect. He thought the more easy they made it to recover the penalty, the more likely it was to produce the desired effect.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. PARKER moved that the words "the Supreme Court" at the end of the clause be struck out, and the words "a Local Court" inserted.

Agreed to.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

The remaining clauses of the bill, and the schedules, were agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Bill reported, with amendments.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 12th August, 1889.

Crown lessees and land cultivation—Mr. S. R. Elliott's letter re treatment of Natives—Assisted passages to Mr. Sebright Green's laborers—Hampton Plains Syndicate's Railway proposals—Mrs. Tracey's Petition: Report of Select Committee referred to Judges of Supreme Court—Responsible Government: Appointment of Delegates—Telegraph line to Yilgarn Goldfields—Government Geologist's report on Water Supply, Yilgarn Goldfields—Electoral Bill—Election of Committee of Advice—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

CROWN LESSEES CULTIVATING THEIR LEASEHOLDS.

MR. HARPER asked: What disabilities, if any, Crown lessees within the Eastern Division of the colony would lie under, in the event of their cultivating land within that division?

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): A pastoral lessee in the Eastern Division has the right to cultivate any portion of his pastoral lease for the purpose of maintaining the pastoral capabilities of the land, but not for the purpose of growing produce for sale.

TREATMENT OF NATIVES: S. R. ELLIOTT'S LETTER.

MR. RICHARDSON asked: Whether the Government had caused any inquiry to be made, in order to ascertain the truth, or otherwise, of the allegations contained in a certain letter published in the *West Australian* over the signature of S. R. Elliott, and reflecting on the conduct of native cases within the jurisdiction of the Government Resident of Roebourne; and if so, what has been the result of such inquiry?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) (replying in the absence of the Colonial Secretary) said: Inquiry was made into the allegations contained in a letter signed "S. Elliott," which appeared in the "*West Australian*" newspaper of the 5th June last. Nothing was elicited to show that native cases within the jurisdiction of the Government Resident at Roebourne had been improperly conducted. The papers have been forwarded to the Secretary of State.

ASSISTED PASSAGES TO MR. GREEN'S LABORERS.

MR. RASON asked:—1. Whether it was true that assisted passages to this colony had been granted to a party of laborers, under the control of Mr. Sebright Green? 2. If so, whether such assisted passages had been recommended or sanctioned by the Government or the Board of Immigration of this colony?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) (replying in the absence of the Colonial Secretary) said his reply to the hon. member's questions would be a simple negative.

HAMPTON PLAINS RAILWAY SYNDICATE'S PROPOSALS.

MR. PARKER, in accordance with notice, moved, "That the proposals of the Hampton Plains Land and Railway Syndicate (submitted to the Government through Messrs. Stone and Burt) for the construction of a Railway from York to Hampton Plains, be referred to a Select Committee." It would be remembered that he asked the Colonial Secretary the other day whether the Government proposed to take any action this session with reference to these proposals, and the answer he received was that they did not. He thought some reply ought to be made to these people, if only as a matter of courtesy, and, therefore, he proposed that the matter be referred to a select committee, to report upon it. The offer was sent down to the House by the Governor, or, at any rate, the letter conveying the offer had been laid on the table by the Government; and it seemed to him that some reply ought to be made to the gentlemen who had made the proposals. It would be within the recollection of the House that a select committee, last year, had dealt with the proposals of a Dr. Boyd, and the House then agreed to certain conditions which should form the basis of any contract for the construction of a railway to the South Australian border. The proposal now before them did not contemplate a line right through to the South Australian boundary, but only as far as Hampton Plains, with the right of running the line to Esperance Bay. He did not know, so far as Esperance Bay was concerned, that the House would be in favor of granting any con-

cession of land for the construction of a line of railway to Esperance Bay, for connecting Hampton Plains with Esperance Bay. Personally, he could not see that it would do any good to this colony to have Hampton Plains connected by rail with Esperance Bay; on the contrary, he thought it might prove prejudicial to the best interests of the Government lines. His idea was that when we went in for a transcontinental line, it should be in direct connection with the port of Fremantle; and, if we gave this syndicate, or any other syndicate, the right to construct a line in direct opposition to our own Government lines connecting Fremantle with the neighboring colony, we should be doing a very unwise thing. He thought it would be very unwise on our part to encourage the construction of a line that would be antagonistic to our own interests. Of course our great ambition was to become connected by rail with the Eastern Colonies. Personally, he did not know that he entertained any strong hope of that being accomplished for some years to come. He thought Western Australia would have to make considerable progress, and have a much larger population than she had at present, before such a railway was likely to be wanted, or before we were likely to induce capitalists to invest their money in such an undertaking. It was a very large undertaking, and would entail a very large expenditure of capital; and he thought, however desirable the proposal was, it would be some years before we were likely to see it carried out, and Western Australia connected by rail with the sister colonies. The proposal now before them was certainly one step in that direction; it proposed carrying the line part of the way; and it might be worth while considering whether it would be worth while to agree to grant the concession asked for by this syndicate. It was a question which, at any rate, ought to receive some consideration at their hands, one way or the other; and he thought they could not do better than refer it in the first instance to a select committee. He thought that in justice to the syndicate that had made the proposal, the subject ought to be taken into consideration with the view of sending them some answer. He thought a select committee would be in a better

position to deal with the question, in the first instance, than the House would be; and it would only be following the same course as had been followed in the case of other railway proposals. One of the conditions laid down by the select committee who dealt with Dr. Boyd's proposals, last year, was that the line should be a 5ft. 3in. line, and that the concession of land should be at the rate of 20,000 acres per mile, and further that the deposit money should be £30,000. All these terms would have to be considered in conjunction with the present proposals; and he thought a select committee would be able to deal with such matters. Therefore, he now proposed that the question be referred to a select committee.

SIR T. COCKBURN - CAMPBELL said he had much pleasure in seconding the proposal. He thought, himself, that certainly this was a matter in which the Government ought to have taken action themselves. The offer, even although we might not agree with it as it stood, came to us from respectable people, and had been brought before the Government by a very well-known firm in the colony; and it seemed rather strange to him that the Government had not taken some action in the matter, so as to be able to send some answer to these people. However, he was glad that the leader of that side of the House had sought to remedy the omission of the Government. Of course the question of whether this offer was one it would be desirable for us to enter into depended very much upon whom this syndicate consisted of, and what likelihood there was of their being in a position to carry out what they proposed to do. He had done all he could to endeavor to obtain some reliable information about them, and, so far as the knowledge of the gentlemen who had sent the proposal down to the House went—and they had, both personally in England and by letter, had a great many communications with the members of the syndicate—they informed him that the syndicate comprised persons of very large financial resources, occupying very influential positions in financial circles, and not mere adventurers, who wanted to get hold of this concession simply for the sake of hawking it about and making money out of it, as some

persons had done on former occasions, to our cost. He understood that they were people who would be able to carry out what they undertook to do, and would be able to find the money themselves. So he was informed; of course, whether this was really so he could not say; but that was the information he had been able to gather about them,—and he might mention that he had obtained his information from his hon. friend the member for the North (Mr. Burt). If the information was correct, and these people were really in a position to carry out the work, he certainly thought it was the duty of the House to consider their proposals and not to contemptuously throw them on one side without deigning to answer them at all. Of course it would be impossible for the House to accept the proposal as it stood, for the idea was to construct a line to Hampton Plains, with the right of extending it to Esperance Bay, which he did not think the House would be likely to agree to. At the same time, he did not think it would be wise to throw the proposal on one side altogether. From what he had heard, he believed the promoters of the scheme would be willing to modify it in a way that would make it more palatable to this colony. The House had already affirmed the policy of connecting the colony with the other colonies by rail; and, if the House still adhered to that policy, he did not see how they could throw aside a proposal like this, made in good faith, without giving it their careful consideration, and seeing how far it could be made to meet the object in view. He did not see that the approaching advent of Responsible Government ought to prevent them giving the proposal their consideration, and sending these people some answer. No doubt the circumstances of the case had altered to some extent since this question was before them on a former occasion, in consequence of the discovery or further development of the Yilgarn goldfields, and no doubt it was desirable that railway communication with that part of the colony should be in the hands of the Government. But on the other hand, there was this to be recollected: the colony was not at present in a position to get a loan for this work. He feared we might not now be able to get Responsible Government to

work until at least this time next year, and there would be surveys to be made, loans to be raised, and other delays, so that he could not see how it would be possible for us to build a railway to these gold-fields ourselves, within the next eighteen months, at any rate. Besides that, even if we were able to undertake this work, it would only be as far as Yilgarn, and, probably, we should not be able to build anything but a narrow gauge line, like the rest of our Government lines. Such a line would be no good as a section of the transcontinental line. These were drawbacks which we should not lose sight of. If these people were really able to do what they stated they were, and we could come to terms with them, this line would probably be commenced in about six months time, and they would give us a 5ft. 3in. gauge from our Eastern Districts to Hampton Plains, which would bridge over half the vast distance that will have to be bridged in order to bring us into direct railway communication with the other colonies. These were questions which were worth considering, and a select committee would be able to obtain information which could not very well be obtained by the House. The House would then be in a position to see whether it would not be possible to modify these proposals, and to make some offer to these people which they could take into consideration, and let us have an answer by the time the House was in session again. It appeared to him that this was a practical view to take of the matter. He had heard one objection to our entertaining the scheme at the present moment, and that was because of the opposition that had been taken in certain quarters to the colony obtaining Responsible Government, in view of the large alienation of lands already made. Of course we knew that all that had been said in the House of Commons on this subject was simply the result of ignorance and stupidity, and that when they talked about alienation of millions of acres to banks, and to syndicates, and to private persons, they were simply talking nonsense. Still, it might be desirable to try to remove these silly notions. But he did not think that the fact of our trying to negotiate for the construction of a railway, on the land grant system, to connect this colony with

the Eastern colonies, would be likely to affect the passing of the Enabling Bill; at any rate, not if we endeavored to induce this syndicate to modify their scheme, and to get them to agree to proposals which would be more in accord with our own views, and to let us have their answer before next session, which was about all we could do at present.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said he perceived a slight difference of tone between the speeches of the mover and of the seconder of this motion. The hon. member for the Vasse seemed to think that as regards one-half of the scheme it was premature, and as regards the other it was, in his opinion, doubtful whether it was desirable to accept it. The hon. baronet who seconded the motion told them that the syndicate was a very respectable syndicate, but that they were not prepared to commence operations within six months. If so, it appeared to him there would be no great harm done if these proposals were left to be considered at the ordinary session of the Legislature, a couple of months hence. If the matter were referred to a select committee now, it would prolong the present session for some days, for this select committee would want to do its work thoroughly; and if the syndicate would not be prepared to commence their work for six months, it would not delay them if the question were postponed until the House met again in October. The mover of the resolution rather hinted that the answer to the proposals should be in the negative; the seconder thought it ought to be in the affirmative; but, whether the answer was to be Yes or No, it appeared to him that it would be better to delay making that answer until next session, when the House would be called upon to deal seriously with the affairs of the colony, and when the Government would submit their programme for the coming year. At present they were in session for a special purpose, and that purpose having been attained, it seemed to the Government that it was inexpedient to enter upon any other important business. Of course they were entirely in the hands of the House; but he understood it was the general desire to prorogue to-morrow, or next day. There was another thing,—it seemed to

him a curious time to refer this proposal to a select committee in the absence of the principal member of the firm through whom the proposals had been submitted to the Government.

MR. A. FORREST said he, for one, objected most strongly to any more land concessions being given by this colony until we had the works, for which concessions had already been granted, carried out, or, at any rate, fairly started. We had one important concession now which had been standing over for some years,—a far better concession in every way than this proposal to have a railway to Esperance Bay, or even to Hampton Plains. He thought the time had come for this colony to make a stand against any more railway concessions until we saw some prospect of these other concessions doing some good. He should also like some further information about this scheme than the House had now before it; all they had to guide them at present was this short letter from Stone and Burt; there were no plans, nor any other information that could guide the select committee, if the matter were to be referred to a select committee,—nothing at all. The whole thing was perfectly absurd. If there was a syndicate formed, and it was such a respectable and influential syndicate as they were told it was, why was not the House placed in possession of the names of the members of the syndicate, so that the colony might know who it was they had to deal with. Some of them knew a good deal about these “influential men” in London, who were forming syndicates—knew it to their cost; it looked very well on paper, but when it came to finding the money, these influential men did not seem to be in a hurry to plank their dollars. He hoped the House would not consent to waste any more time over this scheme until it had further information about this syndicate, and the deposit money was in the hands of the Colonial Treasurer. He really did not think that even the hon. members who had moved and seconded this motion were in favor of the scheme, as it was now presented; they knew very well what these syndicates were; and he hoped the colony would have nothing more to do with any syndicates until we knew they were genuine.

MR. RICHARDSON said he felt rather inclined to support one portion of the proposal—the Hampton Plains portion; but he certainly did not consider it advisable to entertain the other part of the proposal, the extension of this line of railway to Esperance Bay. The other part of the scheme he should be inclined to support, provided they had the usual assurance that the offer was a *bonâ fide* one. As to there being no plans prepared, he thought it was hardly to be expected that any syndicate would be likely to go to the trouble and expense of having plans prepared until they, at any rate, had some idea whether their proposals were likely to be entertained or not. He did not see that there would be any necessity for this select committee to sit for any long time; the whole subject had been threshed out before, and all they had to do would be to see whether the proposals now made were such as they could recommend the House to entertain, or to what extent they should be modified. So far as the policy of constructing this line on the land grant system was concerned, he might say that he was heartily in favor of the policy. It appeared to him that our only chance of getting this railway constructed, within any reasonable period, was by means of a land grant concession. With our present sparse population and limited resources, it would simply crush us to attempt such a gigantic undertaking; and our only chance of getting the work done, and of having these vast areas settled, was by means of a land grant railway, undertaken by outside capitalists. And so long as the conditions were fair and reasonable, and the guarantee satisfactory and the interests of the colony duly protected, he did not see that this colony could adopt a more successful railway policy. We had the Great Southern Railway to guide us; we had seen the successful completion of that scheme, and he did not think anyone would say that, so far as the colony was concerned, the result was not likely to be satisfactory. He thought that line was a monument of the success of our land grant railway policy. Had we not entered upon the construction of that line upon this land grant system, it would have been many years to come before we should have seen a railway

constructed between here and Albany. Therefore, so far as he was concerned, and so long as we had proper security that this other line would be carried out, as we had a right to insist upon its being carried out, he should offer no opposition to its being undertaken on the land grant system. As to the land which we should have to give away in return for the construction of this line, he should like to ask what was the value of this land to us at the present time? Would we be able to dispose of it at sixpence an acre? He should be very sorry to give it, himself, if he had it to give. On the other hand if we had a railway to this part of the country, and provided it with means of communication, and if we thus got the first section of a transcontinental line carried out, and also provided means of communication with our goldfields,—if we did all this, we should find that the value of our land would be something appreciable; it would certainly attain a value which it could not possibly attain in any other way. With our present population how could we possibly undertake such a line as this, and increase the value of the land? We simply could not do it. This land has been lying idle and worthless to us for the last 60 years, and, unless we went in for some such scheme as this, it would remain idle and worthless for the next 60, and the next 160 years. For his own part he did not think any railway policy was so suitable to this colony, so suitable to the circumstances of the colony, as the land grant system; and he, for one, should be disposed to favor any *bonâ fide* proposal, with an assurance that the work would be carried out as it ought to be. In any case, he failed to see that any harm could come out of referring this proposal to a select committee.

MR. MARMION said he intended to move an amendment, as follows: "That under existing circumstances, taking into consideration the fact that so much has been written and said, both in Europe and in the other Australian colonies, as to the alienation of large areas of land, and that the land question is that one which has tended to postpone the passing of Responsible Government, it would be impolitic and against the best interests of the colony to enter into any

contract with any Syndicate that would cause the alienation of very large areas of land, until the question of Responsible Government is definitely settled." Those were his ideas, and he had put them in as few words as he possibly could. It was well known that this vexed question of the land was going to give us more trouble over Responsible Government than anything, and he thought it would be very unwise on our part to give any handle for further opposition. He asked the House to consider whether it would be wise at the present juncture to accept any proposal that would involve the alienation of millions of acres of land? Would it not be likely to be made use of at Home for basing further arguments against the colony obtaining the control of the land? It appeared to him it was absurd to suppose that it would not be made use of by those who were showing so much hostility to the Enabling Bill for granting the colony the right of self-government; and he thought it would have a most prejudicial effect if those people were able to say, "Here are these people rushing into the market with another enormous slice of territory which they have alienated to another syndicate, and, unless we check them, the whole colony will soon be alienated." He would also point this out,—that the present proposal was entirely different to the proposal laid before the House last year, when Dr. Boyd's scheme was discussed. That scheme not only contemplated a line right through to the South Australian boundary, but it also contemplated that the port of Fremantle should be the terminus of the line. The position had also been considerably altered since then by reason of the development of our Eastern goldfields; and he thought it would be very detrimental to the colony that there should be any line to these goldfields except what was owned by the Government of the colony. This syndicate would not extend their line to the South Australian border, and we should have three different lines,—a Government line to the goldfields, a syndicate line to Hampton Plains, and another syndicate line to the South Australian boundary. There were all these questions to be considered, and he thought there was no time for giving them that consideration which their importance deserved, this

session. There was another reason why he thought it would be unwise to press this matter forward at present, just as the colony was on the eve of changing its form of Government. The time could not be far distant when the people of the colony would have the management of the affairs of the colony in their own hands, and he thought it would be better that this question should be dealt with by a new Government coming into power than by a Government that was just about to expire. He did not wish to detain the House for any length of time, although he could dilate at some length upon this question; but he thought the House would recognise the force of the arguments he had put forward, and especially the inexpediency of giving any further handle, at the present time, to our opponents in the House of Commons. For his own part he was willing to wait until we were in a better position to deal with this question.

MR. PARKER said he might point out that the wording of the amendment would rather lead the English public, and especially those who were opposed to our obtaining that form of Government which would give us the entire control of the colony,—it would rather lead these people to think that we were only too anxious to obtain that power so that we might enter into agreements with these syndicates, whereby we could alienate as much land as we liked. They would naturally say: "Look at these West Australians now; they know there is a strong feeling against their having the control of the land, and they seek to remove that feeling by passing a resolution which is simply intended to mislead us, and to hoodwink us; they will not enter into any agreement for the alienation of any more land now for fear that it may delay the passing of their Constitution Bill, but the moment they get the control of the lands into their own hands they mean to go ahead, and to alienate away until further orders." That was the conclusion they would come to on reading this amendment.

MR. MARMION said there was nothing in the amendment to warrant such a conclusion.

MR. PARKER was surprised to hear the hon. member say that. The amend-

ment said, as plainly as words could put it, that it would be impolitic to alienate any more land until we had Responsible Government.

MR. MARMION said that did not necessarily imply that when we did get Responsible Government we were going to alienate any land, unless it was for the benefit of the country.

MR. PARKER said he was only putting his own construction on the hon. member's words, and the only natural construction that could be put upon them, in his opinion. He would remind the hon. member that he (Mr. Parker) had not advocated the adoption of this scheme; he had simply proposed that it be referred to a select committee, in order that some answer might be sent to these gentlemen. It appeared to him that the least we could do was to send them some reply to their communication. He presumed that the Government had sent that communication down to the House in order that the House might come to some decision with regard to it.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): Simply for the information of the House.

MR. PARKER presumed that the Government placed it on the table, not only for the information of members, but also with the view of the scheme being considered.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): No.

MR. PARKER: If so, what on earth was the use of communicating it to the House?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): For information only.

MR. PARKER said that having been laid before them it was their duty to consider it, and not allow it to remain on the table. Surely these people would expect some answer to their communication. The Government had sent it down to the Legislature, and it was only right and proper that the Legislature should deal with it in some way or other. He did not say that they ought to accept the proposal, nor was he prepared to say that they ought to reject it; he thought they might refer it to a select committee to consider how far it was likely to be acceptable to the colony, or to suggest such modifications in the scheme as would make it more acceptable. That

was all his motion contemplated. If the House preferred to adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for Fremantle, he had no objection; all he desired was that some answer should be sent to the promoters of the scheme, now that the scheme had been brought before them.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) thought it would be much better if the hon. member for Fremantle were to withdraw his amendment, for it certainly was open to the construction put upon it by the hon. member for the Vasse,—that we simply wished to put it off until we had Responsible Government when we would be in a position to alienate the land of the colony to our heart's content. He thought it would be better to have some amendment which would simply express the feeling of the House that it was not desirable, at present, to enter into this contract.

MR. MARMION said he had no objection to withdraw his amendment, in favor of an amendment that would have the effect of deferring the consideration of the question for the present.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) then formally moved, as an amendment upon the motion to refer the matter to a select committee, "That in the opinion of the House it is undesirable at the present time to enter into the contract referred to."

Agreed to, on the voices.

MRS. TRACEY'S PETITION.

MR. RASON, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution:—"That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to submit the evidence taken before the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the allegations contained in Mrs. Tracey's petition, to their Honors the Judges of the Supreme Court for their consideration, with the view of their taking such action as they may consider necessary." The hon. member said: In moving the motion standing in my name I may, perhaps, be allowed briefly to refer to the facts. Members are aware that at the last session of this Council a petition was presented to the House by a Mrs. Tracey,

praying that a commission or a committee be appointed to inquire into the allegations contained in her petition,—allegations which reflected seriously on the actions of certain persons. The House appointed a select committee to consider the petition, and to inquire into the allegations contained in it. The report of the committee, together with the evidence, was ordered to be printed; but the printed copy of the evidence was not in the hands of hon. members until the present session. It has now, however, been before them for some days, and I think they will be inclined to agree with me that the report discloses facts which, in the interests of the public, and in the interests of justice, it is highly desirable should be brought before the notice of their Honors the Judges of the Supreme Court. It would take up too much of the time of this House for me to enter into details; members who have read the evidence will be able to see for themselves how much wrong and injustice has been done by the law or in the name of the law; they will be able to see how this unfortunate woman has lost her property, property of the full value of £1,500, and they will see that she lost it as a direct consequence of one of her own tenants, to whom she had given notice to quit, having summoned her for turning him out. They will see that having put herself in the hands of certain lawyers, her property was sold at auction by order of the Sheriff, and that it was bought by a lawyer, Mr. Haynes, who instructed his clerk to bid for it; they will see that one lot was purchased for £16 and another lot for £1; and that these lots, when afterwards sold, realised £647 and £35 respectively; they will see that this unfortunate woman had become indebted to one solicitor to the extent of £274—a solicitor of whom I may say without fear of giving offence to the other members of the profession,—a solicitor who appears to have pre-eminent ability in drawing bills of costs; and they will see that the petitioner, herself, was not the only person who was victimised. Another unfortunate man, named Williams, had to suffer quite as much as Mrs. Tracey herself. In fact, throughout the whole of the evidence there is scarcely half-a-dozen lines but speak of injustice and wrong. There is another feature in connection

with this inquiry, a most lamentable feature in my opinion, and I regret that I should feel it my duty to call attention to it. The report of the select committee was published on the 12th of April, and on the 15th of April, three days afterwards, one of the solicitors referred to, Mr. Horgan, chose to make and to publish in the newspapers a statutory declaration, in which he impugned the veracity of the report, and alleged that, so far as it referred to him, the report of the committee appointed by this honorable House was not true. He repeatedly stated in this declaration that the committee's report, so far as he was concerned, was false. If Mr. Horgan's declaration had been limited to myself, I should have been inclined to have passed it over without notice, but seeing that it refers to, and that it reflects upon, all the members of the committee; seeing also that (as it seems to me) it was an insult to that committee, and an insult to this honorable House; further, when I reflect and remember how long and how patiently that committee sat prosecuting their labors, and that their only object was to find out the truth and nothing but the truth, and that not one of them had any ill-feeling towards Mr. Horgan, himself, and that neither any member of that committee nor of this House would take advantage of that protection afforded him by these walls to say anything that was untrue or that was false as regards another man or to say anything, so far as the truth of the words was concerned, that they would be afraid to say outside these walls; when I remember all this, I feel bound to give to Mr. Horgan's declaration the most unqualified and indignant denial; and, if the House will allow me, I will endeavor to show how in one or two instances Mr. Horgan's statutory declaration certainly does not bear out that high-sounding title that was given to him at his political baptism. [AN HON. MEMBER: "Honest John."] Yes, "Honest John." Mr. Horgan in clause 2 of his declaration says: "That Mr. Burt, one of the committee, asked me whether I included Mrs. Tracey's property (as conveyed to me as security for moneys paid and for costs of past and pending litigation) in my qualification as 'M.L.C.' I replied that I did, to the extent of about £200 then due to me."

Now what Mr. Horgan actually did say was this; he was asked (referring to Mrs. Tracey's property).—Question 276: "You didn't look at it as yours in any way?" "Not in the slightest" was his answer. Yet he says in his declaration that he *did* look at the property as his, to the extent of his bill of costs against Mrs. Tracey. Mr. Horgan again says in paragraph 4 of his declaration, "that when she (Mrs. Tracey) conveyed the land to me no judgment had been obtained against her." Let us see how Mr. Horgan's statement in his declaration agrees with the evidence given by him before the select committee. He was asked: "Question 271—Had she (Mrs. Tracey) any other creditors she wished to avoid when she gave you the transfer, do you know?" Mr. Horgan replied: There was the judgment in Francis's case." He was again asked this question: 273—"Was she under the impression that by transferring the property to you, she would evade her other creditors?" His answer was: "I think that was a matter of inference. She was very sore about the judgment in Francis's case, and vowed she would never pay it." Yet after giving that evidence he makes a statutory declaration "that when she conveyed the land to him no judgment had been obtained against her." Again, in paragraph 6 of his statutory declaration, he says, referring to a statement in the report of the select committee as to certain actions at law: "It is therefore false, as reported by the committee, that I defended the two actions knowing that there was no legal defence." Mr. Horgan says that is false. But what does he say in his evidence before the select committee? He was asked this question, after he had stated that a certain claim had been disallowed, in Chambers,—Question 299—"There was no defence then really in the ejectment case?" And his answer was: "No legal defence." Yet in his declaration he says that the report of the select committee was false in attributing to him that he had defended the action "knowing there was no legal defence." Asked why he went on defending the action, his answer was, "It was then a watching case." I do not argue for a moment that Mrs. Tracey, herself, was free from blame; no doubt she is a hasty, ill-tempered woman, only

too ready to rush into legal actions,—only too ready, perhaps, to take bad advice. But that by no means excuses those who have wronged her; it should rather be her protection. I regret very much that I should have to call attention to this matter; I bear no animosity towards Mr. Horgan; I do not think any member of this House does. But if a committee of this House is appointed to inquire into allegations contained in a petition received by the House, and that committee report that which they honestly believe to be fair, and to be true—and in this case I submit that every word of the committee's report is borne out, and more than borne out by the evidence—if, I say, when a committee does this, and any individual outside, who may consider himself aggrieved, is to be allowed to attack the report of the committee and to state that what the committee have reported is untrue, that it is false; if that is to be allowed, then it seems to me we may say good-bye to anything like independent action or independent inquiry in this House.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): I simply rise to say that there will be no possible objection to the motion brought forward by the hon. member for the Swan, and that in the event of its being carried, His Excellency will forward the papers to their Honors the Judges, as desired.

MR. RANDELL: I should like to say that I hope the House will consent to this motion. I have always thought it was unfortunate that this case could not have been carried further than it was; I always considered there was an unsatisfactory ending to it; and if by any possibility it can now be referred to the Supreme Court and some justice still done to this unfortunate woman, it will be a good thing. I say some justice done to her, for I do not think it is possible now to do her complete justice; it is too late for that. I have been impressed with the idea that gross injustice has been done by some persons in connection with her case; and I thought it was unfortunate that this Council could not have seen any way of restoring to the petitioner, at any rate, some portion of her rights. The course now proposed to be adopted seems to me to be the only course that is now open

for the House to take, by which any justice is likely to be done. I shall always feel that a gross case of injustice has been perpetrated in this poor woman's case; and I think, so long as we feel that injustice has been done, we should rejoice if any means is offered by which some restitution may be done to the injured party. For this reason I heartily hope the House will agree to this address, so that there may be a searching inquiry made into the matter, in the only way in which it appears any justice can now be done to the person who has been so shamefully wronged, as I shall always believe this woman has been.

Motion put and passed.

THE CONSTITUTION BILL: PROPOSAL TO SEND DELEGATES TO ENGLAND.

MR. KEANE: I do not think that the motion standing in my name needs any remarks from me to commend it to the House. The importance of the subject, and the anxiety we all feel as to the fate of the Enabling Bill at Home, is a sufficient ground for asking this House to accept the resolution which I am about to move. We all know the unfortunate position in which the colony is now placed, and the difficulty we are likely to find in the way of getting this bill through. In my opinion I think we owe the fact of our being in the position we are in now, as regards this bill, in a great measure to the fact of our not having a representative or representatives to take our part at Home, and to explain away some of the objections which have been raised to the passage of this bill: I was very sorry indeed to find that no member brought forward a similar proposal to this, last session. Although I have not referred to anybody in particular as being best suited to fulfil the part of our representative or representatives—I do not think it was necessary that I should do so in the resolution I have brought forward; still, having brought the matter forward, I think I may be allowed to suggest the name of one gentleman, whose position, influence, and intimate knowledge of the colony, in my opinion, point to him as a most desirable delegate to represent us, if we can get him to go. I allude to His Excellency the Governor. I do not think we could possibly find any

man who could do our cause so much good, and who would have so much power and influence in England as Sir Frederick Broome. I hope if this motion of mine is carried to-night, as I believe it will be, that we may be able to secure the services of His Excellency as one of our delegates. With these few remarks I now beg to move the motion standing in my name: "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing him that in the opinion of the Council, in order to facilitate the passing of the Enabling Bill through the Imperial Parliament at an early period of its next Session, it is desirable that delegates should be sent to England to represent the views entertained in this Colony with regard to that measure, and to give such information and explanations as will remove the misapprehensions which appear to exist, so as to ensure that the Constitution Bill will become law without further delay. The Council is also of opinion that provision should be made on the Estimates for next year to defray the necessary expenses of such delegates."

MR. PARKER: I have great pleasure in seconding this proposition; and I do it simply with the view of this House adopting the suggestion thrown out by the hon. member who brought it forward—that we should delegate Sir Frederick Napier Broome to be our representative at Home, to give all the information that may be required and to do what is necessary to further the cause of self-government. I feel sure that not only this House, but the country at large, recognises the great ability, the great energy, that our present Governor has shown in advocating the cause of Responsible Government for the colony. We all felt delighted the other day when we read that telegram announcing that a letter on the subject had appeared in the "Times" newspaper, written by Sir Frederick Broome; it confirmed the feeling we had felt all through the negotiations in this matter that in His Excellency the Governor the colony had a staunch friend, and the cause of self-government a most able and most earnest advocate. We have seen all through how boldly the Governor has stood up for the rights of the colony; and I feel sure, myself, that no person we could possibly appoint could have the same influence and the

same ability to do our cause good, as Sir Frederick Napier Broome, if we sent him Home as the Governor of the colony, and also its chosen representative, on this important occasion. With the aid and with the ability that he could bring to bear in dealing with this question, I do not think that we should require any other delegate. I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution before the House.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): Of course there can be no objection whatever to this address being presented; it is entirely a question for the non-official members of the House.

MR. SHOLL: I think it is rather premature to bring this matter forward now; we are told that we shall be called together again in October, and the Estimates will then be placed before us, when we shall be in a position to deal with this question. The motion, as it stands, is rather vague; it proposes that certain delegates be sent Home to represent the colony, and that a sum be put on the Estimates to defray their expenses; but it does not mention what sum, nor is there any limit placed on the number of delegates to be appointed, or the expenses to be incurred. The resolution is silent on all these points. The question of asking His Excellency to represent us has cropped up in the course of the debate; and, so far as that is concerned, I feel sure that no delegate we could appoint could do our cause so much good as the present Governor of the colony. I believe every member of this House, and I believe the majority of the colonists at large, are willing to give His Excellency every credit for the great assistance he has given in our efforts to get this question of Responsible Government arranged satisfactorily, and for the ardour with which he has endeavored to push the matter forward. I feel that if we are going to send Home any delegate we could not possibly send a better one, or one more likely to do good for the colony in this matter of Responsible Government; there is no one who could speak with greater authority or with a better knowledge of all the circumstances, and who would be so likely to be able to remove the misapprehensions

under which people at Home are laboring as to this question. But, as I said before, it seems to me premature to bring this matter of appointing delegates forward now, when we are told that the House will be called together again in a couple of months time from this, and that the Estimates will then be brought before us. It will be ample time then, it appears to me, to bring forward this resolution, when we shall be in a better position to know what the state of the finances are, and what the expense of sending these delegates Home is likely to cost us. At present we are altogether in the dark, and that is my only objection to this motion at present.

MR. A. FORREST: I am sorry that the hon. member for the Gascoyne did not move an amendment to this address. I think all members who have thought the subject out, will agree with me that it would be impolitic at the present time to pass an address with reference to these delegates. As to the question of asking His Excellency to go Home to represent us, I think His Excellency would be placed in rather an awkward position, in a false position; for if he went Home, he would wish, I suppose, to be in touch with the powers that be, and I don't see how we could expect His Excellency to do anything against his own interests, and to put himself in opposition to the Colonial Office. He would have to consider his own interests, as well as ours, for I suppose if he went Home he would wish to receive another appointment; so that I hardly think we should be placing His Excellency in a fair position, nor a position we should like to see him in, after all he has done for us with reference to this change of Constitution. I believe if this House were to pass this address, and ask His Excellency to go Home, as our delegate, he would refuse, and I wouldn't blame him. I, myself, would be strongly opposed to voting any funds to be spent in sending any delegates Home to represent this colony, for I do not believe it would do any good. No matter how influential they might be they would not have much weight with the House of Commons. The members of the House of Commons would hardly know them. I think we have a far better backbone in the other colonies, if

we can get them to support us, and to instruct their Agents General to do all they can to forward the passing of the Enabling Bill when that bill comes before Parliament. I think it is waste of money to vote any sum for sending any delegates we can find in this colony Home. I certainly have not sufficient confidence in any member of this House, to think that he could do us any good if we sent him Home; and, as for sending the Governor, I think it would be placing His Excellency in a false position, and we ought not to ask him to place himself in a position of that kind. I shall certainly vote against the motion now before the House.

MR. MORRISON: I shall have much pleasure in supporting the motion. I think it is our duty, now that we find we have a little breathing time, to do all we can in a quiet way to remove any wrong impressions that exist in the minds of people at Home, with regard to this Constitution Bill. We can see that they are thoroughly ignorant as to many points, and we know that they are objecting to our having this change simply through ignorance of the facts of the case. Without saying whether we ought to ask His Excellency himself to go Home, I am quite certain that when the time comes for sending someone Home to represent us we shall be able to find somebody here who will be capable of representing us. I think, after the loyal way in which His Excellency has supported our claims in this matter, we should find him a very useful and reliable delegate. There can be no doubt about that. But I should like to see some of our own settlers go Home, who would be able to remove some of the wrong impressions that appear to exist in the minds of the English people. I would go further than that: I think it would be a good thing if one or two members of this House were sent as delegates to the other colonies, as well, for it seems to me that there is a good deal of ignorance in some of these colonies as to this question. No doubt if we can bring pressure to bear at Home from the other Australian colonies, we shall have a strong lever. But what I am afraid of is that these colonies may do us some harm, through not being properly conversant with all the facts of the

case; and I think we ought to take some steps to enlighten them, as well as people in England. I think it would do our cause a great deal of good if it were shown that there is unanimity of feeling throughout all these colonies as to this question of granting Western Australia a new Constitution.

MR. LOTON: It seems to me that we are attempting to act rather prematurely in this matter. It may be absolutely necessary to send someone to England and also to the other colonies; but what is the position of this question at the present moment? The present session of the Imperial Parliament is nearly over, and I suppose there is no chance of the Enabling Bill passing through the House of Commons until the House meets again sometime about February or March. Long before that, this House will have been called together again, and it seems to me that will be the time to decide whether we ought to send delegates Home or not, or what further action we ought to take. Personally, I may say that I am in favor of the proposal to send a delegate or delegates to represent us in England when the bill comes before Parliament; and I agree with all that has been said as to the Governor being the most able and the best man we could have to represent us, if it is a proper thing for him to do. No doubt His Excellency could bring more influence to bear than, at any rate, any two members of this House would be likely to be able to do, in a matter of this kind; and we know that he has been very staunch and very loyal to the cause of Responsible Government all through these negotiations. But I think it is premature to go into this question now; I think it can well stand over until this House meets again, as we are told it will do, in October, when we shall have the Estimates before us.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: I must say I am surprised to hear members saying they think this is premature. We know perfectly well—at least we ought to know by this time—that if we wish to obtain Responsible Government at the next session of the Imperial Parliament, we must in the meantime send somebody Home to guard our interests, and do everything we possibly can to protect the Constitution Bill from

any further risks of miscarriage. We have missed two chances already, and it would be lamentable if we missed another. We missed one chance last session, in not appealing to the other colonies to assist us in getting the bill passed this session; if we had done so, we should probably have seen it through. We missed another chance in not sending delegates Home ourselves to secure the passage of the bill during the present session; had we done so, there is very little doubt we should have been able to have got the bill passed. But it is useless now to hark back; our object now should be to make sure that no more blunders of the same sort are committed, and that no effort is spared to see that the bill is passed next session. To my mind we ought to lose no possible chance; and one of the best things we could do is to see that we have those at Home who can meet and disarm any opposition that may arise. I cannot understand the hon. member for Kimberley when he says he does not know what good any delegates can do, and that they wouldn't be able to approach members of the House of Commons. Members of the House of Commons are not demigods; they are simple people like ourselves, very easily approached; and any delegates who were acquainted with the colony could, if on the spot, easily remove the objections now on their minds to this bill. As to its being premature now to consider this matter, and that we should wait until the House is in session again, I do not agree with it. As members know very well, the Estimates are generally framed in a great measure before the House meets, and if we want any money placed on them—and of course money would have to be provided for such a delegation as this—it is necessary that the Government should know beforehand what the views of the House are, so that when they are framing the Estimates they may see what provision they are able to make to meet the necessary expenditure. As to who should be our delegate, I perfectly agree that His Excellency would be the very best man we could have if we could send him Home as the Governor of the colony. I have somewhat my doubts, as the hon. member for Kimberley has, whether it would be an office that would suit His Excellency

himself, if he were Governor of the colony; there might be a certain kind of pressure, perhaps, required which any official connected with the Colonial Office would feel some difficulty in bringing to bear. But, on the other hand, there can be no doubt if His Excellency's services could be secured, and he could go Home to represent us as the Governor of the colony, no other delegate we could possibly have would be so useful. As to its being premature to express any opinion on the question now, and that we ought to wait until the House meets again, that seems to me utter nonsense. We knew very well that our opinions next session will be the same as they are now; and if we expect the Government to make provision on next year's Estimates for this mission we ought to let them know now what our opinions are. The Government then would be in a position to frame their Estimates accordingly.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): This bench, I believe, is not going to take part in any division on this address, if a division is called for; but that will not prevent me from expressing my opinion on the subject, very shortly; and I must say I take the view of the hon. member for Greenough,—there is no particular hurry about this matter. We shall meet again in a very short time, and we shall know more about the matter then; we shall know what the fate of the bill has been in the Imperial Parliament. We shall have the bill, itself, before us, and shall know exactly what the views of the Secretary of State and of the Home Government are, and, I think, be in a much better position altogether to form a correct opinion as to the extent of the opposition at Home, and as to the best means of defending our position when the bill comes before Parliament next session. We know very well that the bill cannot be brought before the House of Commons again until March or April next; so that there is ample time before us to decide what we ought to do; and I do not see that there is anything to be gained by passing this address now, seeing that we are to meet again in October. It is all very well for the hon. member, Sir Thomas Campbell, to speak warmly about what we ought to have done last session; it is easy to be wise after the

event. But I do not see, myself, that we could have done more than we have. Everyone must know, who has any knowledge of the working of the House of Commons, that with the opposition there was likely to be to the Enabling Bill, it would be impossible for the Home Government to pass it this session. The bill got Home at too late a stage of the session for them to do that; and I do not see, myself, that anything we could have done was likely to alter the position. At any rate I myself am not at all sure that we have made any mistake in not addressing the other colonies last session; I believe if we had done so then we should not have had the warm support that we have since received at their hands, since it has been found that our bill is not likely to be carried through. They would not have thought there was any particular necessity for their assistance, as they conceive there is now: I think we have appealed to them just at the right time, when they see that we are in some difficulty about the matter. When it was found that there was going to be trouble over our bill, and that we might find their assistance of some real value, they did not hesitate to give us their support. Australia has now spoken almost as one in this matter, and we are fortunate enough now in having the cordial support of all our neighbors. I do not think we should have had that support, in the marked manner it has since been exhibited, if we had appealed to them last session. We do not know yet what may be the result of this united action on the part of these colonies in our favor; nor do we know what may be the result of the bill in the House of Commons. It seems to me that we shall do better to wait before we take any further action in this matter until the House meets again, a couple of months hence, when we shall be in a much better position to know what is best for us to do.

MR. VENN: Procrastination (according to the copybook) is not the soul of business; but if we are to listen to what the Commissioner of Crown Lands says, I think we must come to the conclusion that procrastination *is* the soul of business.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): It is not

procrastination; it is foolhardiness, I call it.

MR. VENN: I quite agree, myself, with the hon. baronet, that we have already lost a considerable amount of time over this business; I think if the action that is suggested now had been taken months ago, we should not have been in the position we are in now as regards this bill. If individuals wish their business attended to, they attend to it themselves; and, I take it, if we had attended to this constitutional business ourselves, by having representatives on the spot, we should not be in the position we are in at the present moment. I think it is our duty now to see that we do not miss any further opportunities, simply by our own action, or rather want of action; and that it behoves us, as practical men, to look after our own business. I think the House cannot do better than pass this resolution; it is an open resolution; it does not commit the House to any particular course of action. It is a sort of intimation to the other colonies as well as to our own Government as to what this House desires should be done. I do not know that it is necessary at the present moment to mention any names in connection with this proposed action; but as His Excellency's name has been mentioned, I think myself that nothing could be more appropriate or more likely to have the desired result than that His Excellency himself should represent the colony: I feel sure that if the Governor feels that it is within his power to appear for us in this capacity, that he will have the hearty and unanimous support of the people of this colony. There is nothing in the resolution committing the House to any specific expenditure; it is merely an expression of opinion as to the desirability of a certain course of action: I take it that the question of ways and means will come before us again, when this House meets a few months hence, and we have the Estimates before us. But as to this being a premature expression of opinion on the part of this House, I entirely disagree with that. The abstract right of the thing will not be altered a few months hence; if it is necessary, in our opinion, that this step should be taken—and I think most of us are agreed on that point—then I do not

see that we gain anything by postponing an expression of that opinion. I am thoroughly in accord with the resolution, myself, and, therefore, intend to give it my cordial support.

MR. RICHARDSON: I think if the House is of opinion that it is desirable we should send a delegate, or delegates, Home, we may as well say so. There is nothing likely to happen between this and the time we meet again to cause us to alter that opinion. The Imperial Parliament will be out of session when this House meets again, so that nothing that will occur there is likely to alter or modify our views as to the desirability of the action which this resolution contemplates. The only question is, do we consider it desirable that delegates should be sent Home to look after the interests of the colony in this matter? The question of providing the necessary funds is a question that is not before us now; that will come before us hereafter. But, without some resolution of the House to guide the Government, I do not see how we can expect them to make any provision on the Estimates to meet this expenditure. If the House passes this resolution the Government will then be in a position to know at once whether to make any provision on the Estimates, or not. If we pass this resolution it does not follow that we are going to send these delegates Home next day; at the same time I should like to say this: I think it is very desirable they should be at Home a couple of months before Parliament assembles. You cannot convince people of the error of their way of thinking in five minutes; you cannot expect that all these delegates will have to do is to make a statement, and that people at Home will instantly grasp the position, and that everything afterwards will be plain sailing with our bill. I can assure this House they will find their work well cut out for them, and they will find that they have a great deal to do before they can satisfy some people at Home that this bill is only what the colony has every right to obtain. There is a strong feeling of opposition and of prejudice to overcome; and, in my opinion, it is very desirable that whoever is appointed to represent the colony, should be in England for some time before the meeting of Parliament. The English people will have to

be educated up to a standard that will enable them to appreciate the position of affairs; and these delegates will have to move about amongst members of the House of Commons and other public men at Home, and indoctrinate them with right and proper views as to the position of this matter. You cannot expect them to do that in the course of five minutes. You cannot expect them to dissipate this cloud of ignorance and prejudice all at once.

MR. RANDELL: There is force in the argument that it is advisable the House should express some opinion on this subject this session, because, I take it, it will be necessary for His Excellency to ascertain what the views of the Secretary of State may be as to the Governor acting for us in this matter as our representative. I don't know whether it will be necessary to obtain the Secretary of State's consent, but I presume it will. It would also be a hint to the Government to make the necessary provision on the Estimates to meet the expenditure that will have to be incurred. Therefore I find myself in a difficulty whether to support the motion or not; but I must say it seems to me premature to decide to send a delegate Home, because I do think that in Lord Knutsford himself the colony has a sincere friend. Lord Knutsford has promised that we shall have Responsible Government with the control of the lands, and I believe, myself, we shall get it, whether we send delegates Home or not; I believe we shall obtain what we want at the next session of the Imperial Parliament. I am the more convinced of this now because of the influence which we have been able to bring to bear through the action of the other Australian colonies. I think with the Commissioner of Crown Lands that had we adopted the course we did at the right time to secure the sympathies of the other colonies; and I have no sympathy with those who are charging this House with remissness in not applying for that assistance before: I think we made our appeal at the right moment. I think it would have been premature to have asked for their assistance until we saw that there was any real necessity for it. I think it would have been improper on our part to have attempted to bring this pressure to bear upon the Home

Government, before seeing that there was any cause for it. It would have savored of the action of one person asking a favor of another, and telling him that if he did not grant it he would bring his big brother to him. [The **COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS:** The whole family.] I certainly must deny that we have procrastinated in any way, or that the House has neglected any opportunity, so far. I have always felt that we had a staunch and powerful friend in the Secretary of State, and I still think so; and I am not sure that it would be wise on our part to interfere with him. I think we may rely upon his doing all he can for us, and that he is likely to do more for us than we can do for ourselves in this matter. I feel certain, myself, that we shall get that which we are asking from the House of Commons, next session; I have every faith in the ultimate good sense and in the sense of fairness and justice that generally characterise the action of the Imperial Parliament. Therefore, on the whole, I am inclined to vote against this resolution at the present moment: I think it would be unwise to attempt any measures that may not be actually necessary, and which may be distasteful and even embarrassing to the Imperial Government, itself, in dealing with this matter.

MR. RASON: After the disappointment of the hopes we entertained last session, I think it behoves us to do everything we can to prevent another disappointment next session; and that we cannot prepare for action too soon. I believe every member is more or less agreed that it would be judicious and advantageous to send a delegate, or delegates, Home; and, if that is so, I do not, myself, see what is to be gained by postponing this motion. There appears to be an impression on the minds of some members that immediately this resolution is passed, these delegates will be sent Home by the next steamer, and that, without this House suggesting anything of the sort, the Government will take immediate action. I do not think that is the intention of the mover of the resolution, nor is it what the House contemplates. I have only a short acquaintance, myself, with the ways of this House, or of the Government, but that little experience which I

have had does not lead to the idea that the Government is in the habit of acting precipitately, but quite the reverse, and that it takes a very considerable time as a rule for it to act upon resolutions passed by this House. I take it that the object of bringing this resolution forward now is to intimate to the Government that in the preparation of next year's Estimates some provision should be made for sending a delegate, or delegates, to England to look after the interests of the colony. We are told that it is the practice of the Government to frame their Estimates before the House meets, and it therefore seems to me that if we want provision to be made on next year's Estimates for this expenditure we ought to let the Government know in time what our wishes are in the matter. Therefore, it seems to me that the resolution is in no way premature.

MR. KEANE: I am quite satisfied that I have a majority with me in favor of this resolution, though I cannot expect to get a unanimous vote; it is very seldom that we do get a unanimous vote on a question of this kind. It is not my intention to divide the House on the question; it is quite sufficient for me to know that I have the support of the majority; and, should no further action be taken in the matter, and we don't get Responsible Government again next session, it will not be my fault.

MR. SCOTT: As the hon. member says he does not intend to divide the House on this motion, I should like to express my own views on the subject, if I am not to have an opportunity of voting. I consider it would be a most advisable thing for this House to prepare the way now for any action that may be found necessary when the Enabling Bill comes before the House of Commons next session. I cannot agree at all that it is premature to pass this resolution. It seems to me that so far from our action in sending delegates Home being regarded unfavorably by the Imperial Government, they will only be too glad to have the assistance of those who are intimately acquainted with the colony and with the circumstances of the case, so that they may be able to remove some of that feeling of prejudice, which is born of ignorance, I think, rather than

anything else, but which is likely to do us a deal of harm unless it is removed before this question comes before the Imperial Parliament again. I quite agree that if we could get His Excellency to represent us in this matter, we could not possibly get a better man; I think that Sir Frederick Broome would be the right man in the right place as our representative. I think so from every point of view; both on account of his position as the Governor of the colony—which would be bound to carry weight at Home—and also on account of his intimate knowledge of the colony and his literary abilities, which I think could be most usefully employed on our behalf. We also know that His Excellency is animated by a most earnest desire to carry out that which we want carried out, and that he has shown himself a loyal and true friend to the colony all through these negotiations.

Question put, and declared (on the voices) to have been carried; whereupon Mr. A. Forrest called for a division, the numbers being,—

Ayes 11

Noes 4

Majority for ... 7

AYES.		NOES.	
Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.		Mr. Loton	
Mr. Harper		Mr. Randall	
Mr. Morrison		Mr. Sholl	
Mr. Parker		Mr. A. Forrest (Teller.)	
Mr. Paterson			
Mr. Pearce			
Mr. Rason			
Mr. Richardson			
Mr. Scott			
Mr. Venn			
Mr. Keane (Teller.)			

Motion put and passed.

TELEGRAPH LINE TO YILGARN.

MR. HARPER, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing His Excellency that this House, on the 7th inst., agreed to the following Resolution, viz.: 'That in the opinion of this House it is of urgent importance that immediate steps should be taken to construct a line of Telegraph between York and the Yilgarn Gold-fields,' and that this House is also of opinion—

1. That this line should be erected on timber poles procurable along the line.

2. That tenders for the construction of this line should be invited without delay.
3. That the necessary wire, insulators, etc., should be indented at once.
4. That the cost of constructing this line should be defrayed out of current Revenue.

And that this House prays that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to take such steps as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect."

The hon. member said the House having the other evening adopted the principle of this resolution, it was unnecessary for him to say anything now on that point; but he should like to say a few words as to the details which the House was now asked to agree to. He first proposed that this telegraph line should be erected on timber poles, which could be obtained along the line; and it appeared to him, if the line was to be built at a reasonable cost, it would be necessary to do this. The line would pass through forest country where there was any quantity of upright trees suitable for telegraph poles; and if the principle of affixing the wire to trees along the line were adopted, he thought it would be attended with every promise of success. He next proposed that the line should be taken in hand at once; and his reason for urging that was, not only that it was of great moment that the line should be opened as soon as practicable, but also that it would be a great saving of expenditure if immediate steps were taken to commence the work, before the summer set in, owing to the difficulty of procuring water along a great portion of this route. The hardness of the ground in summer, too, was another reason why the work should be undertaken without delay. With regard to the question of funds, he thought the House desired that the work should be undertaken out of current revenue; and in adopting that proposal it would show its confidence in the ability of the Government to find the necessary ways and means, if they wished.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said there could be no objection to this address being presented, and no doubt His Excellency would return a suitable answer to it.

MR. KEANE should have liked the second paragraph to have provided that

tenders be called for the materials as well as for the construction of the line. They all knew it took a long time for the Government to do anything; and if they had to indent for the materials for this work it would probably be twelve months before we had them here; whereas if a private firm tendered to provide them we should have the materials here in three months time, and at a cheaper rate than the Government could obtain them.

MR. LOTON said he was not in the House the other evening when the question of constructing this line was agreed to; but he understood that the principle was carried by a very large majority, that every member in fact voted for it, except the members of the Government. He wished, however, to take this opportunity of saying that if he had been in the House at the time there would have been one other member who would have voted with the Government. He hoped he always had the courage of his opinions, and he was not afraid to express his opinion as to this proposal, which was this,—that in undertaking to build a telegraph line to these goldfields at present, we were beginning at the wrong end. There were other works of far more urgent necessity than a telegraph line, and which would have quite as beneficial a result in developing the fields. What we ought to direct our attention to first was to provide the people on these fields with a supply of water, and to improve the means of transport to the fields, by spending some money on the roads. Before giving them the luxury of a telegraph line, it would be far better if we provided them with the absolute necessary of life in the shape of a perpetual supply of water, and also did something to improve the roads. This telegraph line if opened to-morrow would be no benefit to those who were on these fields, in providing them with water, or in improving the roads, and thereby reducing the present enormous cost of transit to the fields, and the high price of provisions. In his opinion there was no immediate necessity for this telegraph line; we already had a mail running once a fortnight, and if that was not frequent enough, there was no reason why they should not have a weekly mail. But as for spending £4,000 or £5,000 (or very possibly more) in constructing a

telegraph line, he failed to see any immediate necessity for it, except for a parcel of speculators in shares which existed simply on paper. It was commencing to spend money at the wrong end; what was really required was to provide the fields with a permanent water supply, and with improved means of transport, which would benefit everybody concerned in the development of these fields, whereas this telegraph line would only benefit a few sharebrokers, by enabling them to make money a little faster than they otherwise would. He felt that it would be very little use of him to press his views on the House, seeing that the resolution in favor of this telegraph line was supported by members *en masse* when it was brought forward the other evening. But he thought it was his duty, as he was not in the House at the time, to express his own views on the subject at the earliest opportunity afforded him. He did not propose to go much into details; he thought it would be useless; but he intended to move an amendment upon the resolution now before them. He moved that all the words after "goldfields," in the first paragraph, be struck out. With regard to the proposition that the line should be constructed out of current revenue, he thought that was a proposition of very doubtful expediency. He was quite sure it was in direct opposition to opinions that had been expressed in that House over and over again, that all works of this character should come out of loan money, and not out of current revenue. He presumed it would be useless for him to appeal to members in this case; but it certainly was, in his opinion, a most unwise thing to do, especially in the present condition of the revenue, when they were told that there was no money available even for the most necessary works. If the public revenue was in a position to admit of any expenditure in developing these goldfields, our first duty should be to apply it to providing a permanent water supply and to improving the means of transport to and from the fields. Instead of spending money on this foolish project—for it was a foolish project in our present circumstances—let them see what they could do in giving those who were endeavoring to develop these goldfields that which they were absolutely in need of,—a supply of

water that could be depended upon, and decent roads to travel over. He hoped his words, although he did not expect they would have much effect upon the House in its present frame of mind, would have some effect upon the Government.

MR. RANDELL said he rose to second the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Greenough, and to indorse a great deal that had fallen from that hon. member. He very much sympathised with much he had expressed in the course of his remarks; and if he (Mr. Randell) had been present when the resolution was before the House the other day, he should certainly have voted with the Government. He thought this telegraph line would be very much more calculated to promote a spirit of speculation than to develop the goldfields. He quite agreed with the hon. member for Greenough that if these fields were what they were represented to be, it would be much better to expend what money we could in providing a certain water supply and in improving the roads. He could hardly see what real good this telegraph line would do in the present state of these fields, except, as he had already said, encourage a reckless spirit of speculation. It had been said that it will enable people on the fields to telegraph down their wants, and so prevent a scarcity of provisions on the fields. But he should have thought that the greatest benefit we could confer upon people on these fields would be to give them better means of transport, and cheapen the price of provisions on the fields. Surely with the small population on these goldfields, our merchants could pretty well calculate what supplies would be necessary to serve the wants of so small a community, without going to the expense of erecting a telegraph line. Members, however, seemed to have made up their minds to carry the resolution, and he was afraid it was useless for him to raise his voice against it. His only hope rested on the improbability of there being any funds available for carrying out the work. Nor did he see, himself, where the money was to come from. He thought they would have no right to pledge the revenues of the colony to a work of this character; and he hoped the Government would not hesitate to exer-

cise its own discretion in this matter. He hoped if they found that this was a work which could not be undertaken without injury to other interests, the Government would have the courage to refuse to act upon this resolution, for, after all, the responsibility of watching over the finances of the colony rested with the Government.

MR. RICHARDSON said if he had to listen to a few more speeches like those of the hon. member Mr. Randell and the hon. member for Greenough, he should begin to feel serious doubts as to whether the telegraph served any good purpose at all. It seemed to him that, according to these hon. members, if a community possessed a water supply and roads, they would not require a telegraph or any other luxury of that sort. He quite agreed as to the necessity of providing Yilgarn with water; and he thought they had already taken steps in that direction; he thought they had voted something like £10,000—as much as they thought the colony could afford—for that purpose and for finding water for our goldfields, generally. He could not agree with the hon. member that a telegraph line would have no effect in stimulating the development of these goldfields. He thought it would do a great deal in facilitating the working of these fields, in many ways, besides benefiting those who speculated in shares. He agreed that water and good roads were also necessary; but water and roads would not do away with the necessity for direct means of communication with these fields. These goldfields were not likely to be largely developed without the introduction of capital; and if we wished people to invest their capital in the mines we must give them a means of direct communication with the place where their capital is invested. Next to giving them a water supply, he did not know of anything—unless we could give them a railway—that would tend more to assist in developing these goldfields than to place them in telegraphic communication with the rest of the world.

MR. VENN said the resolution which the House passed the other night stopped at the word “goldfields”; and it was then argued that there could be no objection to an abstract resolution of that kind which simply affirmed the importance of establishing telegraphic communication

with our Eastern goldfields. It was because it was simply an abstract resolution that it met with the strong support that it did; it committed the House to no definite action, but left it to the Government to make a survey of the route, so as to see what it was likely to cost, by the time the House met again later in the year. But they were asked now to go much further than that; they were asked to sanction what the House had distinctly refused to do on more than one occasion,—to have this public work undertaken out of current revenue. He certainly did object to that. It was suggested, the other evening, that the money for this work might come out of the premium upon the last loan, and that seemed to him a very reasonable suggestion; and, if that money was available for this purpose he did not think the House would object to its expenditure in this way. But they were now asked to state, for the guidance of the Government, that the money should come out of general revenue. He thought that was decidedly a weak point in the scheme now before them, especially in view of the fact that they had just been recouping a large sum out of loan to make up the deficiency in the revenue. He did not think that was a policy that had received much encouragement at Home, and he thought it would not be wise policy to repeat; and when they were asked to subscribe to this statement that the cost of this telegraph line should be defrayed out of current revenue, he thought they were asked too much. This telegraph line, at all events, could very well remain over until the House met again a few months hence, when the Government, he presumed, would be prepared with an estimate of the cost; and, probably, by that time we should have the loan money in our hands. He was sorry he could not support the resolution as it now stood,—at any rate with clause 4 in it. While that remained, he certainly should feel it his duty to vote against it, however desirous he might be that telegraphic communication should be established with the goldfields.

MR. SHOLL said the proposal before the House had his support. With regard to paragraph 4, he thought it would have been better if some words had been added to show that the money should be recouped to general revenue out of the

next loan. He thought that every public work of this kind, which became an extra burden upon the revenue for its upkeep, should come out of loan money, eventually; but he quite acknowledged the necessity of having this line built as soon as possible,—notwithstanding what the hon. member for Greenough and the hon. member, Mr. Randell, had said. It did not matter what it cost, the development of these goldfields was of so much importance to the colony at large that, in his opinion, the sooner the line was built the better. It was all very well to say that because you hadn't got roads it was unnecessary to get a telegraph line. People in business knew better, and capitalists knew, that unless there was some means of direct communication with the fields, they would never be developed. People who invested their money in these mines wanted to know how they were looking, and whether there was any prospect of some return; it was not likely that people would continue to sink capital unless they could communicate direct with the fields. A gentleman who was well qualified to express an opinion on the subject told him the other day that, so important was it for the future of the goldfields that there should be a line of telegraph constructed, if the Government did not undertake the work, it ought to be taken in hand at once by private enterprise. With reference to water, the House had already voted £10,000 for that purpose; but what had become of that money, or how much remained unexpended, he did not know. But he should imagine there was a pretty large sum still left for that purpose. He did not think anything of the argument that we ought first to have a railway to these goldfields before we went to the expense of building a telegraph line. They might as well argue that the telegraph to South Australia was no use, and that we ought to have waited until we could build a railway. With reference to the proposal as a whole, he intended to support it; he thought if it cost ten times £5,000 it would be money well spent: the only part of the proposal he objected to was that it was to be built out of current revenue, without any provision being made that the money should eventually be recouped to the revenue out of loan.

MR. RASON said the resolution was simply to give effect to a resolution which the House had already affirmed by a large and overwhelming majority. He altogether failed to follow the logic of the hon. member for Wellington who said that the majority only voted because the question then was an abstract question, and that the majority on that occasion only affirmed a principle. It seemed to him we were getting too much into the habit of affirming principles, though we objected to it very strongly when it was pursued elsewhere. It appeared to him that when the House agreed to the resolution moved by the hon. member for York the other evening, in favor of the construction of this line, it did so in the belief that it ought to be undertaken. Members either supported the proposal on its merits, or they voted against the dictates of their own conscience. The elected members of the House voted for it in a body, and no doubt they intended that the work should be carried out; otherwise it was useless expressing any opinion on the subject. They all knew that the only chance of developing these goldfields was by an influx of foreign capital. The inhabitants of this colony had done as much as they possibly could in that direction, and their only hope now was to induce outside capital to carry on the good work. They knew that the first question asked by outside capitalists when appealed to for assistance was, what opportunity was there of obtaining information as to the progress of events on the fields? With the present means of communication weeks and weeks elapsed before any information of a reliable nature could be obtained by capitalists with reference to the fields; and, unless some more reliable and more direct means of communication was established, the fields must remain undeveloped.

MR. HARPER said he regretted very much that the hon. member for Wellington should have expressed his disapproval of some portion of the resolution; perhaps it was somewhat his (Mr. Harper's) own fault in not having stated more distinctly what had taken place with regard to this matter. It had been his original intention to have provided that the money for this work should come out of the premium on the last loan, or

from the sale of town lands on the Yilgarn goldfields; but he was informed on very good authority that the Government had decided to transfer the amount of the loan premium to current revenue.

MR. MARMION: They cannot do that, any more than they could apply it to the construction of this line, without the sanction of this House.

MR. HARPER said the other source of revenue he had thought of was from the sale of town lands on the goldfields. He had reason to believe that ample funds could be obtained from that source, in the course of a very short time, if the Government were to put up some town lots for auction at Yilgarn.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest): That wouldn't be current revenue.

Amendment put—that all the words after “goldfields” be struck out.

The House divided, with the following result,—

Ayes	2
Noes	14
—			
Majority against ...			12

AYES.

Mr. Randell
Mr. Loton (*Teller.*)

NOES.

Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.
Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Keane
Mr. Marmion
Mr. Morrison
Mr. Parker
Mr. Paterson
Mr. Pearce
Mr. Rason
Mr. Richardson
Mr. Scott
Mr. Sholl
Mr. Venn
Mr. Harper (*Teller.*)

MR. KEANE moved to add the following words in paragraph 2 (after the word “construction”)—“and the supply of the necessary material.” He had already explained his reason for doing so; he thought it would be far better that tenders should be called for supplying the material for the telegraph line as well as for the construction of the line itself. They all knew that a private firm would be able to obtain the material sooner and cheaper than the Government.

MR. MARMION said it had been the practice hitherto for the Government to find the materials for works of this kind, and he was not aware of any reason for departing from that practice in this particular instance.

MR. HARPER said if the idea was that it would save time to have the material provided by tender, it appeared to him that the result would be quite the other way. Some time must elapse before tenders could be sent in, and it might be that none of them would be such that the Government would feel justified in accepting; and much time might be lost before a tender was accepted.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question put—That this address be presented.

MR. MARMION thought it would be advisable to leave out the 4th paragraph, which provided that the work should be undertaken out of current revenue. He moved that it be struck out. It seemed to him that this would leave a loophole for the Government to get out of undertaking the work at all, on the ground that there was no revenue available for it. He thought it was incumbent on them to show the Government some ways and means whereby the work could be taken in hand; otherwise he was afraid the resolution would not have much effect.

MR. HARPER said he had already indicated how, in his opinion, the necessary funds could be raised.

POINT OF ORDER.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): I rise to order. The only question now before the House is the presentation of this address; we have done altogether with the wording of the address.

THE SPEAKER: I think it is still competent for any member to suggest an amendment to the address.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): And reopen the whole question?

THE SPEAKER: The whole of the resolution is still before the House.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): Your Honor has put the question, “That the address be presented.”

THE SPEAKER: The address is still before the House. But I think I might point this out: I do not think, from a constitutional point of view, it is the province of this House to point out to the

Executive how they are to obtain funds for any particular work.

MR. MARMION: That supports my view, that it would be better to leave out this 4th paragraph. By striking out these words it will leave the responsibility of providing ways and means on the Government.

Question put,—That paragraph 4 be struck out.

Carried.

Resolution, as amended, put and passed.

ARTESIAN WATER SUPPLY AT YILGARN: REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

MR. VENN, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this House, in face of the definitely expressed opinion of the Government Geologist in regard to Artesian Water Supply at Yilgarn, boring operations should be immediately suspended, and the unexpended balance of the sum voted for water supply be devoted to the conservation of surface water, and purchase of condensers for that area." No doubt hon. members had read the report of the Government Geologist, and also the scientific data upon which he had come to the conclusion that no artesian water supply could be obtained on the Yilgarn goldfields. He hoped they had also studied the interesting diagram which the Government Geologist had furnished with his report, in order to demonstrate his theory. If they had done so they could come to but one opinion, and that was, that to incur any further expenditure of money, at present at any rate, in boring operations at Yilgarn, would be simply waste of money. It seemed to him that the House had no choice in this matter but to support the resolution he had brought forward. They paid the Government Geologist to give them a scientific opinion, and it seemed to him that they were bound to pay respect to that opinion. They believed in the Government Geologist in every possible way, and he had given them a decided opinion on this purely geological question. Not only had he given them his opinion; he had also given them his reasons for arriving at that opinion, and those reasons were apparently unanswerable. He might say that the Government Geologist had told

him some months ago—before the Legislature voted a sum for the purchase of a boring machine—that he did not believe water could be found on that area by boring; and he had now declared his opinion, in no uncertain voice, that to expend any further sum of money in boring for water would simply be useless, so far as finding fresh water was concerned. Perhaps he could not do better than read a portion of the Government Geologist's report, in which he clearly demonstrated the correctness of his conclusions; and having done so, he would ask the House whether it would be wise to expend any further sum of money in trying to discover water where there was none to be had? Mr. Woodward put the case very plainly. He said:

"To describe an artesian area in a simple manner, we will take a two-storied house with a tank to catch rain water near the roof; from this tank a clay pipe is taken down the side of the house to the ground, to supply the lower floor with water. Now we will suppose that water is wanted on the floor above, and it can be more simply conveyed there by a pipe from the ground floor, and as we know the tank is at a greater height than this floor, the water will rise to it.

In nature we find a basin-shaped valley to represent the house, surrounded by hills which we will take as the roof. In these hills, and under the valley, is a porous bed of sandstone between two impervious beds of clay which will take the place of the tank and pipes; in the centre of the valley is a recent deposit of clays and gravels with salt water overlaying the beds we believe to contain fresh water, and these beds we can take to represent the lower story of the house. Now, a bore is put down through the clays and gravels with salt water, and has to be lined with tubes, as, if this were not done, the fresh water would get mixed with the salt, or not rise to the surface at all, but on striking the sandstone below the clay, the water rushes to the surface. This is due to the fact that the water is standing at a higher level in the sandstone beds in the hills than the surface of the valley, but it is unable to make its escape owing to the clay beds above and below it; but the moment this bed is tapped it rises, not because water has any tendency to rise, but because the water that is standing at so much higher a level squeezes it out.

Now we will suppose that after some years the old house has settled, the clay pipe cracked and broken; the supply of water upstairs would get less and less till it stopped altogether, and this is what has happened at the Yilgarn Goldfields. Earth movements have tilted and broken the rocks, so that instead of holding water under pressure, they allow it to

escape, when it finds its own level, from which it cannot be induced to rise except by pumps."

That was what the Government Geologist told them. Nothing could be plainer. Allowing that Mr. Woodward was correct—and they must presume that he was correct, in a scientific question of this kind—it appeared to him that the House had no option in the matter. The resolution must commend itself to their common sense. Mr. Woodward had told him in the course of conversation that there never yet had been artesian water found in such a formation as that at Yilgarn; and that was a very strong point. Of course it might be said that geologists and scientific men had been known to have been wrong in their conclusions, and that it might be so in this case; and that it would be better to try whether we could not get a fresh water supply, notwithstanding this scientific opinion. He did not think that such an argument as that, in the face of the strongly expressed views of the Government Geologist, would justify them in expending public funds out of mere curiosity, to see whether the Government Geologist was right or not. It had been said, in the course of another debate that evening, that the House had voted £10,000 for the purpose of providing a water supply for our goldfields. But he was informed there was not much of that money left. Members would probably be surprised to learn what a small sum was still available out of that vote. But he was advised that there was still sufficient left to do a considerable amount of useful work, if properly directed. He had suggested in what direction it would be best, in his opinion, to spend this money. He believed a good deal might be done in the way of conserving rain water, and he thought it was worthy of careful consideration whether it would not be wise to send up a condenser. He was informed that some of the condensing machines now used in other places were very perfect machines, and could be worked very cheaply with the aid of a small steam engine. At any rate, he thought he had said enough to induce the House to support the resolution. There was one other thing to be considered: in boring through such a formation as we had at Yilgarn, where the strata ran obliquely, there was a danger

of the boring machine going wrong, and getting twisted and injured.

MR. A. FORREST: What was it bought for?

MR. VENN: Because this House wished it, contrary to the opinion of the Government Geologist and contrary to the opinion of the Director of Public Works. But the mere fact of their having made that mistake was no reason why they should perpetuate it, and go on wasting more money. The resolution he had moved seemed to him to suggest the only reasonable course for the House to adopt, under the circumstances.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had listened with a great deal of interest to the speech of the hon. member who had brought forward this resolution. He might state, in the first place, that it was quite true, as the hon. member had said, that he had expressed an opinion, long ago, that he did not believe that boring for fresh water at Yilgarn would be of much use; and he still entertained that opinion, which had been backed up by what the Government Geologist himself had now said. At the same time, as we had gone to the expense of purchasing this boring machine and gone to the trouble of getting it up to the fields, and incurred a good deal of expense in preparatory work,—having done all this, he thought we ought now to give the machine a fair trial, for, after all, professional opinion was not infallible. In many instances he could quote, professional opinion, and that of the very highest character, had been contradicted by Nature. Of course it was possible that scientific or professional opinion had erred in this instance; at any rate, having gone to the expense of obtaining a borer, and made every preparation for using it, he thought they might try whether it would succeed, or not. It would be a satisfaction to know whether it would, or not.

MR. MARMION said he thoroughly indorsed the remarks of the Director of Public Works. He did not know anything about boring for artesian water—the only boring he was accustomed to was when he bored that House, now and then—but this he did know: we had incurred a large amount of expenditure in getting this boring ma-

chine up there, that it would be a pity not to put it to the test. As to the opinion just now expressed by the Director of Public Works that no artesian supply would be found at Yilgarn, he was not aware that the hon. gentleman had expressed the opinion publicly before, or, at any rate, expressed it so strongly. Nor did he think that they had any strong expression of opinion from the Government Geologist before. If they had, probably they would not have expended this large sum of money in purchasing a boring machine. But having done so, and as it was on the ground, ready for operations, he thought it would be a mistake to abandon it now. He thought it would be a pity not to put the question to a practical test, now that we had gone so far. We need not spend all the money in boring; it would be better to have more than one string to our bow; and a portion of the unexpended balance should be devoted to the conservation of water.

MR. A. FORREST hoped the House would not take much notice of the speech of the hon. member for Wellington. After the great expense the colony had gone to in obtaining a boring machine, he thought it would be absurd to abandon the work now, simply because a scientific gentleman considered there was no chance of our getting water with it. They all knew that scientific men had often erred before now, in more ways than one; and he thought the House would be doing an injustice to Yilgarn if they were to pass this resolution, without giving this boring machine a fair trial. What would people outside say about us, after voting £10,000 for water and going to the expense of buying a costly machine, to abandon it, simply because a scientific gentleman said he didn't think it would answer? People outside the colony would say at once we were not practical men. The Government Geologist, or any other scientific man, might be the most able man in the world, but he might err. He hoped the House would give this machine a fair trial, before abandoning it. If they found that it did not succeed, they would say at once that the Government Geologist was right and that they were wrong. But let the point be first tested, as we had gone to the trouble and

expense of getting this boring machine on the field.

MR. SHOLL would have liked to have heard what the actual balance was that remained unexpended out of the £10,000 appropriated for the goldfields. He had been told that there was only £3,500 or so left,—he did not know whether it was correct. He would remind the House that this £10,000 was not voted for Yilgarn alone, but for the goldfields of the colony generally.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): It has been used for that, too.

MR. SHOLL was afraid that only a very small portion of it had been used on any other goldfields but Yilgarn. They were told by the Government Geologist that it was not likely we should get an artesian supply at Yilgarn; but the same gentleman had told him (Mr. Sholl) that although we might not get an artesian supply we might be able to get fresh water; and he formed that opinion from the formation of the country. Therefore it appeared to him that, although it would be useless to attempt boring for an artesian water supply, the best thing we could do would be to set about making dams for conserving fresh water, and send this boring machine to some other part of the colony. He thought the House would not be justified, in the face of the Government Geologist's opinion, to expend any more money in water-boring at Yilgarn. It would be casting a slur upon the Government Geologist to go right in the face of his opinion. As for the Director of Public Works' opinion, that hon. gentleman had never been on the fields, and he did not understand, therefore, how the hon. gentleman could express an opinion of any value on a scientific question like that. It was all very well to be wise after the event.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): I told you before the event.

MR. VENN said he had but one object in view in bringing forward the resolution, which was to prevent any further useless expenditure of public funds. The great object they all had in view was to obtain water in some way or the other for these goldfields. The Government Geologist told them it was no use going

to the expense of boring; but if the House, in the face of that opinion, insisted on boring, the probability was that the balance of this vote would be expended in that way; and we should have neither water nor money. If the House would persist in boring holes in the ground simply because the borer was there, he could not help it; he had done his duty so far as he could in the matter. He would only add that if they thought the Government Geologist's opinion was worth having at all, they ought to follow it, or not have a Government Geologist.

MR. MARMION: What we ought to have done was to have sent him up there before.

Motion put, and negatived on the voices.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 13th August, 1889.

Message (No. 6): Telegraph line to Yilgarn Goldfields—
Message (No. 7): Replying to Addresses—Message
(No. 8): Delegates to England—Memorial to the
Secretary of State re Extension of Governor
Broome's Term of Office—Electoral Bill: third
reading—Message (No. 9): Assenting to Bills—
Message (No. 10): Replying to Memorial re Extension
of Term of Office—Address of Thanks to the
other Australian Governments, for their action re
Enabling Bill—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE (No. 6): TELEGRAPH TO YILGARN GOLDFIELDS.

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

"In reply to Address No. 7 of the 12th instant, the Governor has the honor to state that he will cause an

"estimate to be prepared of the cost of constructing, maintaining, and working a line of telegraph between York and the Yilgarn Goldfields, and that, if it should appear possible to provide the necessary funds from any source, the work will be put in hand.

"Before incurring the expense, it will be necessary to have regard to the financial arrangements for 1890. These will be sufficiently forward in a few weeks to enable the Governor to determine whether he is in a position to meet, as he naturally desires, the wish of your Honorable House.

"There cannot be two opinions regarding the importance of opening telegraphic communication with the Yilgarn Goldfields at the earliest practicable date.

"Government House, 13th August, 1889."

MESSAGE (No. 7): REPLYING TO ADDRESSES.

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

"The Governor has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following Addresses from the Honorable the Legislative Council:—

"No. 2, dated 26th of July, 1889—
"Inquiry into the late accident
"on the Eastern Railway.

"No. 4, dated 29th July, 1889—
"Stock route between Dongarra
"and Perth and Fremantle.

"No. 5, dated 12th of August, 1889
"—Petition from Mrs. Tracey.

"No. 8, dated 12th of August, 1889
"—Railway from York to the
"Hampton Plains.

"The requests contained in Addresses Nos. 2, 4, and 5 will be complied with, and the opinion expressed in Address No. 8 will be communicated to the Hampton Plains Land and Railway Syndicate.

"Government House, 13th August, 1889."

MESSAGE (No. 8): DELEGATES TO ENGLAND.

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