

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 27th July, 1874.

Papers Tabled—Geraldton and Northampton Railway—Spanish Radish and Scotch Thistle Prevention Bill: second reading—Transfer of Land Bill: recommitment—Chairman of Committees—Transfer of Land Bill: in committee—Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance Amendment Bill: third reading—Immigration: select committee report: in committee—Perth City Council Bill: third reading.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

## PAPERS TABLED.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid on the table a letter received from Mr. Joubert, Hon. Secretary to the New South Wales Agricultural Society, seeking the co-operation of this colony in order that a fair representation of Australian products be made at the World's Exhibition to be held at Philadelphia in 1876.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) also placed on the table, for the information of hon. members, a letter from Sir J. W. Ploos Van Amstel, the Netherlands Consul General, at Melbourne, and the agent there of the Netherlands-India Steam Navigation Company, expressing a hope that the company would be able to accept the offer made by this Government to promote direct communication with the Netherlands by granting the company remittance of harbor and light dues conditionally upon their steamers calling at Fremantle.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) read, and laid on the table, a letter received by the Government from Messrs. Siemens Brothers, of London, asking for the exclusive right to land a submarine telegraph cable or cables, on the western or north-western seaboard of this colony, for the purpose of establishing telegraphic communication with Europe and India and all other places which can be reached by cable from the western or north-western coasts of the colony. Messrs. Siemens request that this right be granted for a term of, say, 15 years from the date of establishment of telegraphic communication with India, the firm to commence active operations within three years from the date of the concession, in default of which the concession to be revoked.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) notified to the House that, by the last colonial mail, the Government had received a communication from Mr. Eloms, of the Royal Mint, Sydney, stating that the piece of quartz, weighing 17 lb. received from Capt.

Stirling, R.N., and forwarded for analysis by the Government of Western Australia, was found to contain 255/1000 of an ounce of standard gold, being at the rate of thirty-three (33) and six-tenths of an ounce per ton. (Cheers).

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid upon the table a copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary, South Australia, addressed to the Colonial Secretary, with reference to the recent application of certain miners in the Moonta and Wallaroo Districts to be imported into the colony.

## GERALDTON AND NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) announced to the House that he held a contract entered into for the construction of the Geraldton and Northampton railway, for the sum of £50,000; and that the work would be proceeded with at once.

## SPANISH RADISH AND SCOTCH THISTLE PREVENTION BILL.

Second Reading.

Mr. CROWTHER moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time.

## TRANSFER OF LAND BILL.

Recommittal.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) moved that the Bill be re-committed for the purpose of making slight verbal alterations to some of the clauses.

Question put and passed.

Chairman of Committees.

The SPEAKER announced that the Chairman of Committees was still unable to attend through continued illness and he would therefore continue to discharge the duties of chairman, *pro tem*.

In Committee.

Clause 51—

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) moved that the words "to have acquired" be inserted between the words "claiming" and "by" in the first line of the clause.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 53—

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) moved that the words "entitled in," in the first line, be struck out and that the words "claiming to have acquired any" be inserted in lieu; that the words "otherwise on a," in the first and second lines, be struck out, and that the words "other future interest by" inserted in lieu; and that the words "to have acquired" be inserted between the words "claim" and "and" in the fourth line.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 95—

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) moved that the word "devolve," in the second line, be struck out and the words "have been acquired" inserted in lieu; that the word "devolve," in the third line from the top of page 34 be struck out and the words "been acquired" inserted in lieu; that the word "devolves," in the 12th line from the top of page 34, be struck out, and the words "has been acquired" inserted in lieu; and that the word "devolved," in the last line but one of the said clause, be struck out, and the words "been acquired" inserted in lieu.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Second schedule—

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. G. W. Leake) moved that the words "here state whether sole or otherwise," be inserted in italics between the words "proprietor" and "of" in the first line.

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Bill again reported, with further amendments.

#### POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### IMMIGRATION.

Select Committee Report: In Committee.

Resumed debate.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) expressed his belief that the result of the analysis of the piece of quartz already

referred to, and which he, in company with Captain Stirling, had indiscriminately picked out of a reef at the Preston, was the very best immigration agent this colony could have (cheers), and would in a very short space of time induce a large influx of capital and population to these shores; for it was only reasonable to suppose that the piece of quartz in question, taken indiscriminately as it was out of a reef extending for many miles, was indicative of the gold-bearing richness of the country in that locality. Another piece had been forwarded to Melbourne for analysis, but the result had not yet been communicated to the Government. He need not say that if the result of the assay was anything like the result of the piece forwarded to Sydney, or were the general yield from the reef whence that piece was extracted only one-tenth of the quantity of standard gold expressed out of the 17 lb. subjected to analysis, this colony would no longer have cause to cry out for population or capital. Notwithstanding this very gratifying fact, it appeared to him absolutely necessary that something should be done to obtain, as early as possible, one shipload of immigrants from England. He, however, did not believe that the suggestions contained in the note of the chairman of the select committee appended to the report offered more probability of success in the way of inducing people to emigrate hither from England than any other mode. Something beyond the co-operation of shipowners would be required, and, in his opinion, the colony could never hope to carry out the nomination system with success unless we had someone in England who would, in conjunction with the Emigration Commissioners, place himself in communication with the owners of vessels and with the nominee immigrants. Merely to leave the matter in the hands of persons nominated would produce little or no result; people would not trouble to place themselves in communication with shipowners, and it appeared to him absolutely necessary that the colony should have some active energetic representative at Home who would undertake to hunt up the immigrants nominated, and superintend their deportation. It had struck him that we had in England at the present moment an official in the service of this colony whose services might be advantageously employed in this direction. He alluded to Mr. Laurence, R. M. who might be instructed to communicate by means of circulars with the immigrants nominated, and to place himself in personal communication with the Emigration Commissioners and the owners of vessels, with the view of the immediate embarkation of the persons nominated. Mr. Laurence was now on half-pay, and

he did not propose to place him on any salary, but merely guarantee that all necessary expenses in connection with his duties as immigration agent should be refunded. If he succeeded in his efforts to induce a shipload, say about 400, of immigrants, the question of remuneration might be an after-consideration. This, it appeared to him, was the most likely, indeed the only plan to attain the object we had in view, namely an immediate supply of labor suitable to our requirements. With regard to the other portions of the report under consideration, he agreed with its recommendations generally, but objected to a refund being required from immigrants for short residence.

Mr. HAMERSLEY thought the committee would gladly adopt the suggestion thrown out by the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. DEMPSTER considered that if Mr. Laurence would consent to act in the capacity sketched out for him by the Colonial Secretary he not only should have all necessary expenses attendant upon the discharge of his duties paid, but be very liberally dealt with if he succeeded in inducing a shipload of useful immigrants to embark for this colony without delay.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) said that no doubt when our quartz reefs were developed, now or hereafter, the question of immigration to this colony would be virtually settled. He had always been of opinion that this country was destined to receive an accretion of population from the neighboring colonies, and this would be the inevitable result of the development of our gold-bearing quartz reefs. True, no poor man's diggings had as yet been discovered, and quartz-crushing was chiefly carried on by means of capital and machinery, but yet the impetus that would be given to the colony by the development of our auriferous resources must be immense. Whether, however, we had a "rush" or not, he thought the suggestions of the Colonial Secretary with regard to obtaining a shipload of immigrants from England was worthy of every consideration. He also thought that the expenditure of a sum of £1,000 or so in introducing say 150 Chinese or Javanese coolies for the immediate supply of our more pressing wants in the way of labor would be money well spent. With his hon. friend the Colonial Secretary, he was entirely opposed to the system of refund recommended in the report. That system was tried in the other colonies, and it proved an utter failure.

Mr. BICKLEY thought if we could get some 30 or 40 immigrants by each vessel

trading with the colony from England it would be far better than introducing a shipload at a time; nor did he see the necessity of appointing any agent at Home, as all that we required in the way of immigration could be easily compassed through the co-operation of the shipowners and some of our old colonists, providing every publicity was given both here and at Home to the mode in which passages might be obtained.

Sir Thomas COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, who was one of the members of the select committee whose report was then under the consideration of the House, did not think that the committee were so enamored of the report that they would not agree to any alteration or modification thereof. The suggestion of the Colonial Secretary relative to the appointment of Mr. Laurence appeared to him (the hon. baronet) a very sensible one and one that would in all probability tend to bring about the desired result, namely, an immediate supply of useful British immigrants. At the same time he was free to confess that he would be inclined to support the suggestion that a shipload of Chinese or Javanese laborers be in the meantime introduced, in order to satisfy the most pressing wants of our labor market, and as a temporary expedient.

Mr. STEERE thought the plan recommended for adoption by the Colonial Secretary might act very well indeed. He had always been of opinion that we could never do much in the way of obtaining a supply of European labor without an agent, and he thought the suggestion thrown out as to the temporary employment of Mr. Laurence in that capacity was worthy of the consideration of the House, and in his opinion, would be the best course that could be adopted under the circumstances. He was quite convinced that unless something in that way was resorted to, we should not succeed in causing an immediate influx of British immigrants. He quite concurred in the absurdity and the futility of the recommendation relating to the refund proposed in the report of the select committee for short residence which, if put in force, would have a most mischievous and deterrent effect, especially in the face of the attractions offered by our more prosperous neighbors, and by other countries. He was glad to find the Surveyor General and the hon. baronet opposite endorsing his (Mr. Steere's) views as to the desirability of importing a limited number of Javanese or Chinese coolies to supply our more immediate wants, pending the arrival of European immigrants. To this end, he would move—That the sum of £1,000 be immediately expended in introducing into

this colony a supply of suitable coolie labor from Singapore and Java, and that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that he will cause arrangements to be made to secure such a supply.

Mr. CROWTHER had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, as a temporary means to supply our present and immediate wants. He also concurred with those hon. members who had expressed their satisfaction with the suggestion made by the Colonial Secretary, with reference to availing ourselves of the services of Mr. Laurence, now in England, in promoting immigration from that country to this colony, to the extent alluded to. He knew of no man more devoted to the interests of the colony, or better adapted for the purpose in view, and he believed if immigrants were to be had, Mr. Laurence would get them for us, and he would take care they should be of a useful class. But getting immigrants here and retaining them were two different things. Unless there was a very considerable amelioration of the present labor status, no decent immigrant would remain longer than he could help, and the colony, after a large expenditure of public money in encouraging immigration, would merely be used as a stepping-stone to reach our more attractive neighbors. The Hon. the Surveyor General had alluded to our auriferous resources as more likely to be developed by capitalists than by the working miner. Now he (Mr. Crowther) was not at all certain but what we had also alluvial diggings; in fact, he was sure we had.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee): So am I.

Mr. CROWTHER said he was informed, on very trustworthy authority, that if we had Chinese miners employed at Peterwangy they would all soon be rich men, and surely, if such was the case, Europeans could earn a very decent livelihood there.

Mr. PADBURY would support the resolution of the hon. member for Wellington, as a matter of experiment and expediency. A number of Chinese laborers were introduced into the colony, in the early days of the settlement, and they had all turned out to be good working men, although perhaps not so desirable a class as Europeans. John's great failing was that he must fall in love with our women (laughter), but no one would venture to deny that John was not a very industrious and, on that account, very desirable immigrant. But, as he had just said, John had such a weakness for our pretty girls that he almost invariably was smitten by their charms; and although he (Mr. Padbury) would not like our friend John to marry a sister or a daughter of his, he was

bound to admit that there were plenty of girls of our own race who got married to men of their own nationality quite as degraded as ever a John Chinaman was. With reference to Mr. Laurence, he was, no doubt, about the very best man we could find to answer our purpose; he was young, active, energetic, and a good talker. But the best immigration agent this colony could find would be that bit of gold shown to the House by the Colonial Secretary that night.

Mr. DEMPSTER would support the resolution of the hon. member for Wellington.

Mr. MARMION saw no reason for State interference as regarded the introduction of coolies, but suggested that the settlers who were desirous of introducing Chinese and Javanese labor should guarantee to the Government that whatever the number of that class were introduced would be absorbed.

Mr. BICKLEY opposed the resolution.

Mr. STEERE said no doubt it would be desirable to make some arrangement with regard to the engagement of the coolies, preparatory to their introduction; but he was sure there would be no difficulty in absorbing the limited number he recommended for introduction, merely as an experimental or tentative scheme. If it did not answer their expectations, he would be the last man to advocate its continuance. With regard to European immigration he would suggest that in carrying out the recommendation embodied in the report before the House as to the formation of local immigration boards throughout the colony to encourage the settlers to nominate their relatives, the existing District Roads Boards be asked to undertake this duty. He would also suggest that copies of our Land Regulations—undoubtedly the most liberal of Australian land laws—be freely distributed, and widely circulated abroad. He would ask the Hon. the Colonial Secretary if it was true that there were 50 immigrants coming out in the *Fitzroy*?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) replied that the Emigration Commissioners were doing their utmost to obtain for us a few suitable immigrants out of the small sum voted for that purpose at a previous session, but he was not officially informed whether they had succeeded in their efforts. He had, however, heard from private sources that there were 20 male immigrants coming out in the *Fitzroy*; but he had not authentic information on the subject.

Mr. CROWTHER said he had received a letter from the captain of the *Fitzroy* stating that he expected to arrive here about October

or November, with a general cargo and 30 immigrants.

After some further observations from the COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) the hon. gentleman concluded by moving the following resolutions:—

This Council having carefully considered the report of the select committee appointed to consider and report upon the question of immigration, is of opinion that the several recommendations contained therein may be beneficially adopted, with the following additions and alterations:—

1.—That with a view to secure a supply of immigrants from England with as little delay as possible His Excellency the Governor be requested to take immediate measures to send for a supply of nominated immigrants not exceeding in all 400 statute adults.

2.—That His Excellency be further requested to cause such information on this subject to be circulated throughout the colony as may ensure nominations being received in Perth prior to the departure of the mail for England on the 13th proximo.

3.—That no nominations be received except on printed forms to be obtained in each district of the colony.

4.—It being evident that labor from England cannot arrive in this colony in time to be made available for securing the ensuing harvest, this Council recognizes the advisability of assisting the colonists in procuring Chinese or Javanese coolies, and prays His Excellency the Governor to sanction the expenditure of a sum of money for this purpose not exceeding £1,000. This sum may, in the opinion of the Council, be properly expended by a committee of colonists, who should act as a body of private gentlemen, whose proceedings should, however, be subject to the approval of His Excellency the Governor.

5.—That in the opinion of the Council an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that he will bring under the notice of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies the great want of labor at the present time; that he will point out that the colonists are willing to make great sacrifices to procure such labor; that they are now in a position to absorb a larger number of immigrants than at any former period in the history of the colony; and that they

humbly pray that assistance may be rendered to them by sending at Imperial cost a supply of that labor which is so urgently needed. The Council confidently asks this boon in the faith that, had they been able during the continuance of the convict system to absorb the labor now required, it would have been supplied at Imperial and not Colonial cost, and that the present will, in all probability, be the last request for assistance that will be preferred by this Council for such a purpose.

6.—This Council recommends that the clause in the report relating to the encouragement to be offered to Europeans to proceed to this colony from the Eastern colonies be confined to immigrants introduced by private persons in this colony and be not intended to apply to any system of immigration to be carried out by the Government.

7.—That the refund of 10s. a month proposed to be recovered from European immigrants should not be made, as such a course in the opinion of the Council, would have a deterrent effect on persons purposing to emigrate to Western Australia.

8.—That no greater amount of land than 150 acres be allotted to any one family.

Amendment agreed to.

Report of the select committee, as amended, agreed to.

#### PERTH CITY COUNCIL BILL.

Third Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Council adjourned at 10 p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 30th July, 1874.

Conveyance of English and Colonial Mails—Submarine Telegraph—Spanish Radiab and Scotch Thistle Prevention Bill: in committee—Transfer of Land Bill: third reading—Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872. Amendment Bill: in committee—Charitable Institutions Bill: select committee report: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.  
PRAYERS.