

He knew his own firm sometimes was very glad to get the services of a Government draftsman, and, so long as the work was not done in office hours, and done at the ordinary rates, he saw no great harm in it, while the probability was that they could get the work better done than if done in their own office. Of course, no public servant ought to be allowed to do private work during office hours, but he thought it would be very hard indeed to deprive a man of all chances of supplementing his income simply because he happened to be a civil servant.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that, as the head of the department in which the particular officer referred to by the hon. member for Perth was employed, he must say he thought the matter had been exaggerated, and that the hon. member in bringing forward this motion was belaboring a willing horse, for the Government were perfectly willing to do everything in reason to assist him. He thought the hon. member was bringing a very powerful piece of machinery to bear to crush a very small object, when he asked the House to pass a motion of this kind because one public officer had drawn out a plan or two, for a friend or two. The question was—if the House were to adopt this motion, where were they going to stop? Where would they draw the line? They would next have market gardeners complaining because some public servants cultivated their own fruit and vegetables, and so interfered with the business. What possible harm was there in some unfortunate Government clerk, in receipt of a very insufficient salary, eking out his small pay by copying a few letters, of an evening, occasionally? The whole thing appeared to be in a very small compass, and really unworthy of all this agitation, and of occupying the attention of that House, more especially in view of the instructions which the Governor had just issued. As to the particular officer referred to, he did not believe he had done work at any time at a lower rate than the usual scale; if he had, it was only in some exceptional case, probably out of friendliness towards gentlemen employed in the same department as himself, and possibly he might have done the work for nothing, as no doubt the hon. member

himself had done for members of his own profession. He could not help thinking that this matter had been brought forward by certain architects either out of a petty feeling of spite or of jealousy as to the way the work was done.

MR. SHOLL hoped the hon. member for Perth would be satisfied with the instructions issued by the Government in this matter, for it appeared to him the Government had endeavored to meet the wishes of the deputation. The question raised was a very difficult one to deal with, for it would be hard to say where they could draw a line. A public officer would not be allowed to work in his own garden, or to grow a few cabbages, if they were to draw a hard and fast line. He thought if the Government carried out these instructions they would do all that could be reasonably expected of them.

Motion put and negatived.

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

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 5th December, 1888.*

Loan Estimates, 1889: in committee—Sand-Drift Bill: third reading—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill: in committee—Land Regulations Arbitration Bill: in committee—Adjournment.

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

### PRAYERS.

#### LOAN ESTIMATES, 1889.

(SUPPLEMENTARY LOAN ACT, £100,000.)

The House went into committee for the consideration of the Loan Estimates (Supplementary Loan Act, £100,000).

*Item:* Development of Goldfields, £10,000.

MR. SHENTON asked the Colonial Secretary for some information as to how it was proposed to spend this money.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it would be impossible on the moment to answer the hon. member in detail. There were now three declared goldfields, and he thought all were agreed as to the necessity of making provision for their development, in the way of procuring a water supply, and in other ways. The Government had no definite scheme at the present moment, but the main object he presumed must be the obtaining of a supply of water. This sum was placed on the Estimates in order to place the Government in funds to do what was necessary. If hon. members had any suggestion to make, the Government would be happy to hear them.

MR. SHENTON said the House had passed a resolution in favor of spending a sum in water conservation, and recommended it should be done, by contract, by some experienced water-boring company. It was also suggested that the Government should obtain some information from the other colonies as to the system generally followed there, and the cost. Did the Government intend to carry out the wishes of the House, and have this work done by contract?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Certainly.

MR. SHENTON said he regretted to see such a small amount set apart for the purpose, and he hoped it might be increased before they went through these Estimates, by striking out less urgent votes. He thought it should be at least half as much more. The success of our Yilgarn goldfields must depend upon a supply of water for working the reefs. It was unfair to expect this to be done by private enterprise, seeing that it was a work of public importance; individual efforts of private companies were not likely to do much beyond looking after their own particular claims. What was wanted was a general supply of water for the whole of the goldfields, and this the Government ought to do all in their power to obtain. We had the ball now at our feet, and the only way of keeping it moving was to secure a good water supply.

MR. HARPER said that looking at Yilgarn from an agricultural point of

view, he thought it promised to be one of the greatest booms in the history of the colony, if proper efforts were made; and no time should be lost in taking the necessary steps for opening up these goldfields. He should like to have had some scheme put forward by the Government, showing what they proposed doing; also, how they proposed to have the work carried out. It was evident it could not be carried out under the direct or immediate control of the Director of Public Works at Perth, and he hardly thought anyone would suggest that a work of this kind should be done by the Warden, who had had no practical experience in such work. Unless proper supervision was exercised over the expenditure of this money, he was afraid it would be frittered away. If the work was going to be done through the medium of correspondence with the Public Works Department in Perth, he was afraid it would not be very satisfactory; and, considering the extent of country that was said to be auriferous, every economy would have to be exercised to make the small sum available go the distance it was urgently required to go, on the roads as well as on the fields. He cordially hoped, with the hon. member for Toodyay, that by striking out some of these other votes, a considerable sum more might become available for the goldfields.

MR. KEANE said he could quite appreciate the difficulties of the Government, considering the various other claims it had upon its attention; still he thought they ought to give the House some idea as to how they proposed to spend this money. Besides the supply of water on the goldfields, there was the question of the conservation of water on the roads; it was utterly impossible for the roads boards, out of the small pittance they drew from the Government grant, or out of any local rates they were likely to raise to provide sufficient water for the heavy traffic on these roads, and he thought the Government would be quite justified in spending a certain amount of this money on the roads leading to the goldfields. They had had ample time to send an engineer or surveyor to get an estimate of the probable cost of obtaining water on these roads; but they had done nothing of the sort, but left the whole matter to the local roads boards, and it had been

stated that in some instances the expenditure made by these boards had been completely thrown away, the recent thunderstorm having washed away all their labor. He hoped the Director of Public Works would give the House some information as to the result of his inquiries with regard to water-boring. As to the supervision of this work, he thought, as he said the other day, it had been a mistake to take the work out of the hands of the Water Conservation Committee, and place it in the hands of the Warden—a very estimable man in his own department, but having no practical experience in work of this kind. He thought it would pay the colony fifty times over to get a man thoroughly up in the work of water-boring and water conservation, a man of practical experience, who would have some idea where to look for water, and where to put a bore down. A Tiffin borer had been sent up there in charge of a mere mechanic, who might understand construction of the machine very well—and no doubt did,—but who would not know much about the most likely places for sinking.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said this sum of £10,000 was placed here by the Government in the belief that it would suffice for our present requirements, but as for giving a detailed estimate of how it was going to be spent, every pound of it, that was absolutely impossible at the present moment,—unless they knew the exact depth they would have to sink for water, and everything about it. Until they ascertained how deep they would have to bore, or what other steps would be necessary, the Government were as much in the dark as hon. members were as to the expenditure that would be necessary. He believed the small sum of money appropriated so far, for water conservation on these fields, had been economically expended, and the work thoroughly well done; and, from what he was informed, he believed there was a water supply at Yilgarn sufficient for some months, with the present number on the field, and there was a considerable sum still in hand. As for the man in charge of the Tiffin borer, Mr. Raeside knew thoroughly well what he was about in boring for water; he was an experienced man, and came here from the

other colonies with excellent testimonials; and the hon. member for Geraldton, he was afraid, knew nothing of what he was speaking about. He (the Commissioner) believed this £10,000 would be ample for the present, for the conservation of water not only on the fields but also on the roads. As to the roads, the money would be spent under the supervision of the local boards—who he thought were the most proper persons for it—under the inspection of some officer appointed for the purpose by the Public Works Department. With regard to water-boring on the fields, he had received three tenders, from companies or firms prepared to contract for the work, at prices varying from £1 to £1 10s. per foot, but with a considerable amount added in the way of contingencies, which made it rather difficult to estimate what the actual cost would be. Some of them required the Government to cart the water, others required this thing and that thing, and he estimated that the contingencies would come to about 25 per cent. more than the price mentioned per foot for boring. In addition to obtaining these tenders, he had applied to the other colonies for information as to their experience in water-boring and the prices they were paying, and all other necessary information on the subject; but, so far, the Government had received no answer to these inquiries. Therefore, it was impossible for him at present to give the information which the hon. member required; but, so soon as it was received, they would be in a position to act upon it, when the House voted the necessary funds. So far as deep sinking was concerned, he should certainly advise that the work be done by contract—not that his own department was so utterly incapable of doing the work, as some hon. members seemed to think—but simply because these companies already had the necessary plant and the tools required, and when they finished the work they would take their plant somewhere else. But he would not recommend any agreement whatever for boring being entered into until the agents of the company or companies had been on the ground and reported as to the localities where they would recommend the bores to be put down and the probable depths they would have to sink,

so that the Government might have some idea of what the cost would be, and cut their coat according to their cloth. But he certainly thought £10,000 would be sufficient—he hoped it might be. Of course if the House chose to increase the vote, the money would be spent to the best advantage they could, to give the colony as much benefit from it as possible.

MR. PARKER wished to point out that it was highly desirable that this work should be undertaken as early as possible, otherwise very serious loss would be entailed—a loss that would be felt by the country at large, for the development of these goldfields were not only of importance to those immediately concerned but to the whole colony. Therefore he hoped no unnecessary delay would take place in commencing operations.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he should not like the idea to go forth that the Government was not alive to the necessity of proceeding to work as soon as possible, or that they desired there should be any unnecessary delay. If any such idea existed in the minds of hon. members, they might disabuse themselves of it. They had not yet had this money at their disposal; but, as soon as they were placed in possession of funds, there was no reason to suppose there would be any delay on the part of the Government, or that they would not use their best endeavors to provide what was necessary for the development of our goldfields, so far as the funds at their disposal would go. He thought they had done very well, so far, considering the limited means at their command. They had Kimberley in working order, they had Pilbarra in working order, and they had Yilgarn in working order; with a Government staff on each. He thought no one could say the Government had not done all they could in the matter, and the House might rest satisfied that the money now placed at their disposal would be expended, so far as it could, to the best advantage, and he hoped to the satisfaction of the country.

MR. RICHARDSON hoped the Government would not forget that we had other goldfields besides Yilgarn, and that the claims of Pilbarra would not be overlooked.

MR. HARPER: I should like to ask whether it is the intention of the Government to delay any work until this loan is floated, or whether they intend to make some arrangement to obtain the funds necessary for this work before?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): I can only say it is the intention to proceed with the work with all diligence, as soon as we get proper authority to do so.

MR. MARMION regretted that the sum proposed by the Government for this very necessary and most important work was not larger. He would remind them that there were other things besides water that would be required; and he felt much disappointed that the Government had not given them some outline of the method in which they proposed to spend this money. It appeared to him it would have been a good thing, if we could have afforded it, to have run a light line of telegraph to these Eastern Districts goldfields. Nothing to his mind tended so much to advance the interest of isolated parts of the country, and to make people more contented with their isolated lot, than to have prompt means of communication with the centres of population. Possibly some further sums might be squeezed out of this loan for this purpose. When His Excellency proposed to the Secretary of State that we should borrow £200,000, he looked upon these goldfields of so much importance that he proposed to appropriate one-fourth of that amount, £50,000, for their development. Now they were told that £10,000 would be sufficient. He hoped the Government realised their responsibilities in this matter. He hoped they would not wait until this money was raised in the London market before commencing operations, and that they would not delay or waste too much time in endeavoring to obtain information from elsewhere, but exercise all due diligence, and seek intelligently the best means of expending the money as soon as practicable. Time was money in this instance—money not only to those individuals who had shown their faith in these goldfields by already devoting a large amount of capital to assist in developing them, but also to the whole colony.

MR. SHOLL said no doubt it was most important to obtain a proper water

supply for these goldfields, but, when they considered the smallness of the proposed loan, it could not be said that the interests of these fields had been overlooked. The hon. member for Fremantle told them that the Government originally proposed to expend £50,000, or one-fourth of the loan that was first advocated. He would remind the hon. member that it was still proposed to spend one-fourth of the amount available out of the present loan. It must be borne in mind that £60,000 out of this £100,000 had been already appropriated to repay the revenue, leaving only £40,000 for distribution; and it was proposed to spend £10,000 of that on these goldfields. A great deal had been said in the course of this debate about the Yilgarn goldfields—it was nothing but Yilgarn, all through. He had no wish to depreciate the importance of Yilgarn, but he thought it was just as important that some attention should also be given to Pilbarra, which gave every promise of being a very rich field and a very extensive one.

MR. KEANE thought they all agreed that the Government had up to the present done all in their power so far as the means at their disposal enabled them to do, to develop our goldfields. No one was blaming them for that. As to Mr. Raeside, he did not wish it to go forth that he had been finding any fault with him, as to his fitness or his competency to take charge of a boring machine, as a mechanic and fitter; but he was perfectly satisfied that whatever experience Mr. Raeside might have had in that capacity, he had never been entrusted with the duty of selecting the best sites for putting down a bore. That was what we wanted,—some person who had been accustomed to select the best site for sinking for water, and who had experience to guide him. He was sure it would be a large saving of money in the end if the Government obtained the services of such a man, for that purpose.

MR. MORRISON said if there was one bright spot on the horizon of this colony at the present time it was these goldfields. They were not mere myths, but substantial realities; and the public were showing their faith in them by spending something like £2,000 monthly in wages, and a good deal of that went in carting water.

They all agreed that the Government had done what they could with the means at their disposal; he did not know that it was the duty of the Government to provide water for working the machinery on a goldfield, but he thought they were bound to obtain the water necessary for sustaining life, when they proclaimed a goldfield, and took people's money for mining licenses or leases. He thought the most practical way of solving this water difficulty at a place like Yilgarn, with the least expenditure of funds was—not to have half-a-dozen different officials, one referring to the other, and wasting red tape, but to offer a bonus to the first of these water-boring companies who discovered a supply. The Government should say to one of these companies, "We will give you, say, £1,500 for the first discovery of water that will supply us with 50,000 gallons a day." He believed there were plenty of companies who would jump at the offer. No doubt £10,000 was a small sum to appropriate out of this loan for the development of our goldfields; he should like to see that sum spent annually, if we could afford it, not only upon these goldfields, but in opening up our back country, by systematic prospecting and water-boring. He believed the money would be well spent, and that it would be a reproductive expenditure. Possibly this item might be increased, for he could see some votes included in this schedule which were of much less importance than the development of our goldfields.

The item was then put and passed.

Item: Buildings, etc.:

	£	s.	d.
a. Completion of Government Offices, Perth ... ..	9500	0	0
b. New Wing, Colonial Hospital, &c. ... ..	1300	0	0
c. Additions to Post and Telegraph Offices, Cossack and Carnarvon ... ..	600	0	0
d. Additional Accommodation Woodman's Point Quarantine Station ... ..	650	0	0
e. Rebuilding Pensioners' Barracks, Perth ... ..	2000	0	0
f. Goods and Cars Sheds, Roebourne ... ..	1500	0	0
g. Extension of Beverley Station ... ..	1500	0	0
Total ... ..	£16950	0	0

MR. MARMION asked whether this sum of £9,500 for the completion of the

public offices would be sufficient to finish the work, in accordance with the original contract? If it was, how had the estimate been arrived at—had a contract been entered into, or was it based upon certain schedule rates?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the amount had been arrived at upon a calculation of the schedule rates fixed by the contractor for this building. The building would be completed entirely for this amount.

MR. PARKER asked why a sum of £1,300 was asked for in connection with the Colonial Hospital?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it was necessary to increase the accommodation. It was only the other day that a suggestion was made in that House to do away with the Guildford Hospital, the argument being that there was no necessity for a hospital at Guildford, as the Colonial Hospital was so convenient.

MR. KEANE said if that was the only reason for building this new wing he should oppose the vote. He thought they could do a great deal more for the benefit of the colony with this money, in other ways.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that was only one reason. There had been a sum placed on the Estimates for two or three years for this work, but unfortunately it had to be struck out. The new wing was very much required, for an operating room, and for a separate ward for females.

MR. SCOTT said a select committee was appointed two years ago to report on this subject of increasing the accommodation at the Colonial Hospital, and the committee reported that it was highly necessary to provide additional conveniences. The necessity for this had still further increased since then, and it was admitted on all hands that the present accommodation for the reception of patients was insufficient, to say nothing about the desirability of having a separate operating theatre, instead of having operations performed in the general ward, in sight of all the patients. There was also great necessity for a separate ward for contagious diseases, and other improvements.

MR. MARMION: Are there any plans and specifications?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Yes.

MR. MARMION: Will it be done for this amount?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): For this amount.

MR. SHENTON complained of the reticence of the Government in giving the House any information as to these votes. All the information members could get had to be dragged out of the Government. It did not use to be so, on former occasions. Perhaps the Government took no interest in these matters now, as their days were numbered.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said there was no wish on the part of the Government to be reticent, or to keep anything back. Most of these items were not new to hon. members, and the amounts asked were very small. The House had voted much larger sums on previous loan schedules without any information. They had voted one item which was larger than the whole amount of this loan—a sum of £105,000 for harbor works at Fremantle—without knowing how any portion of it was going to be spent. They were dealing now with hundreds; they were dealing then with thousands. If hon. members wished it, he would run through these items *seriatim*. They had dealt with *a* and *b*. With regard to *c*, an extra room was required at both Cossack and Carnarvon, to provide additional accommodation for the public and the officers stationed there. With regard to *d*, this vote was required to provide separate dormitories at the Quarantine station; at present there were only two common rooms, and a smaller room, and, if a passenger vessel happened to come in with any infection on board, there was no place where the quarantined patients could be accommodated, with any decency. The next item—rebuilding Pensioners' Barracks—spoke for itself. It was proposed to rebuild entirely that portion of the barracks that had been destroyed by fire. At present the Government were paying £200 a year for providing lodgings to the constables who formerly were quartered in these barracks; and, if they could save £200 a

year, by a capital expenditure of £2,000, the colony would get good interest on its money. With regard to *f*—goods and car sheds at Roebourne—at present they had no place at all, in that tropical place, where they could store the rolling stock and plant required for the tramway, and the result was they were getting very much out of order. At Roebourne there was even no place where any goods could be stored, and settlers complained very much because there was no place where wool could be sheltered. At Cossack, too, there was a necessity for something of the same sort. All that was intended was to build plain galvanised iron sheds. The last item—the £1,500 asked for Beverley railway station—was wanted in order to build a refreshment room and to extend the platform, which would be required when the railway to Albany was opened. The refreshment room would include kitchens, lavatories, a waiting room, and other conveniences necessary for travellers, and as there would only be one other refreshment room between Albany and Beverley, the necessity for some accommodation at this station was obvious, as the through journey would occupy about seventeen hours.

MR. SHENTON moved to strike out item *d*,—"Additional accommodation, Woodman's Point quarantine station, £650." There was no pressing necessity for this vote. No immigrant vessels now came here, and, in case of an emergency, tents could be erected for the accommodation of those placed in quarantine.

Motion put and passed, and item struck out.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the Pensioners' Barracks, asked whether it was intended to pull down the ruins of the wing partly destroyed by fire, and rebuild it entirely, or simply to repair what was standing?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it was only a small portion that would have to be pulled down, but the whole wing would want roofing, and the floor and other parts would require renewing.

MR. SCOTT asked the Director of Public Works whether he thought it desirable to repair this building at all, merely for the sake of providing accommodation for half-a-dozen constables. Would it not be better to pull it down

altogether? At present it was an eyesore to the town.

MR. KEANE thought that in the existing circumstances of the colony this £2,000 could be applied to much better use than in repairing this old building, even although it might be a saving of £200. For his own part, he should like to see the whole thing pulled down; it was only a sham—it was all face, and no back to it. He moved that the item be struck out.

MR. SHOLL said a very sensible suggestion was made last session by the hon. member for Kimberley, that the Government should pull down the building and sell the land, and extend St. George's Terrace in that direction. He thought the suggestion was worthy of consideration. For his own part, he was opposed to spending any money upon these old barracks.

MR. MARMION said there could be no immediate necessity for providing for this work, out of a loan. He presumed the £200 required for lodging allowances had been voted on the Estimates for next year. There might be a great change between this and the end of next year, and some other arrangements might have to be made. He did not think this building was such a great improvement to the architectural beauty of the city, that they should spend £2,000 in putting it in repair.

MR. PARKER thought, if Perth was going to become the grand place they all expected and hoped it would, some day, it might be necessary to extend St. George's Terrace in this direction, and it would be necessary to pull down the central building, facing the terrace, so as to leave an opening for the street to be extended. But he thought the wings might be preserved, and, if the central portion were pulled down and the land sold, the Government could afford to do up the wings out of the proceeds.

MR. RANDELL would be sorry on the one hand to see the vote struck out, while on the other hand he thought the work ought to be done out of current revenue. But as we were not in a position to do it out of revenue, he presumed there was no other way but this for it. He must join issue with those who thought it would be an improvement to pull down this structure;

he thought it would be a pity to do that, but he considered it was a poor advertisement and a standing testimony against the present circumstances of the colony to have a large pile of buildings like this in a state of ruin, when they could be profitably utilised.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) wished to say nothing as to the financial aspect of the question, but he should like to express an opinion that, from an æsthetic or artistic point of view, it would be a pity to destroy this building, which undoubtedly was an improvement to the appearance of the terrace. This street was beyond doubt a handsome street at present, with the range of hills for a background at one end and this pile of buildings crowning its rise and closing the vista on the other; and anyone acquainted with the most elementary principles of art must know that the present effect would be destroyed if this imposing structure were removed.

MR. MORRISON said he looked at the matter in this way: if the building was worth having, it was worth keeping in order; if it was not worth having, it should be done away with.

Question put—that the item be struck out:

Agreed to.

MR. KEANE moved that the item "Extension of Beverley station, £1,500," be struck out. He saw no necessity for spending this money in building a refreshment room, when there were plenty of people who would be prepared to provide all that was necessary for that purpose for the present if they got a lease for a term of years, as had been done at Chidlow's Well. If they found the traffic was increasing, the Government might then be in a position to build these refreshment rooms, but at present he thought we could dispense with this vote.

MR. SHOLL pointed out there was nothing to prevent the W. A. Land Company from building an opposition refreshment room a few miles off, before the trains reached Beverley, and people wouldn't want anything more to eat there.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that would cut both ways. Travellers going from this end would stop at Beverley, the terminus of the Government line.

MR. SHENTON thought the vote might be reduced, rather than struck out altogether. He did not see what we wanted to spend £1,500 upon a refreshment room at a place like Beverley. This seemed to be the besetting sin of the Works and Railways Department, erecting elaborate and costly buildings when there was no necessity for such buildings. In the other colonies they were content with plain wooden buildings with galvanised iron roofs, costing £200 or £300, and it was absurd to spend this large sum in the erection of a refreshment room. Was it proposed to extend the platform any great length?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): In front of the refreshment room.

MR. SHENTON: Then I shall certainly move that the amount be reduced to £600, which ought to be ample.

MR. PARKER thought it would be absurd to build a grand refreshment room at Beverley, where nothing could be had in the way of refreshments, unless they were brought from York, or somewhere else. A refreshment room without refreshments would not be of much use. Moreover, he did not suppose there would be more than an average of about 20 passengers travelling on this line daily, and the company would take care that they had refreshments.

MR. VENN presumed this refreshment room would be let at so much a year, so that there would be a certain amount of income received from it by the Government, and the expenditure of the money would to that extent be reproductive.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) thought it would create a very bad impression upon travellers visiting the colony, if they had to stop at this important junction, for half an hour, in a bare shed without any accommodation. It would be a disgrace to the colony to have a tin shed erected, as some hon. members wished. He hoped there would be no reduction of the vote.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it was not only proposed to build a refreshment room, but also lavatories, waiting rooms, and other necessary adjuncts of a railway station. It was not intended to do anything on a grand scale, but the least we could do was to provide the ordinary

conveniences for travellers on this important line. He would sooner have the vote struck out altogether, than have it reduced to £600. It would be useless attempting it with that sum.

MR. SCOTT would support the motion to strike out the vote, as he considered the Government would require the money for other purposes, of more urgent necessity, especially the goldfields.

MR. MORRISON said if this refreshment room brought in a rental of £60 a year—and he should imagine it would do that—it would be pretty fair interest on the money expended in building it.

Question put: That the item be struck out.

Committee divided.

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	11

Majority against ... 1

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Burt	Mr. H. Brockman
Mr. Horgan	Mr. Congdon
Mr. Marmion	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Parker	Hon. Sir M. Fraser, K.C.M.G.
Mr. Pearce	Mr. Harper
Mr. Richardson	Mr. Morrison
Mr. Scott	Mr. Randell
Mr. Shenton	Hon. Sir J. G. Lee Steere, Kt.
Mr. Sholl	Mr. Venn
Mr. Keane (Teller.)	Hon. C. N. Warton
	Hon. J. A. Wright (Teller.)

Amendment negatived.

MR. SHENTON moved that the item be reduced by £900.

Committee divided.

Ayes	...	...	9
Noes	...	...	10

Majority against ... 1

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Burt	Mr. H. Brockman
Mr. Horgan	Mr. Congdon
Mr. Keane	Hon. J. Forrest
Mr. Marmion	Hon. Sir M. Fraser, K.C.M.G.
Mr. Pearce	Mr. Harper
Mr. Richardson	Mr. Morrison
Mr. Scott	Mr. Randell
Mr. Sholl	Mr. Venn
Mr. Shenton (Teller.)	Hon. C. N. Warton
	Hon. J. A. Wright (Teller.)

Item put and passed.

Item: Miscellaneous—

a. Wharf and Water supply, Wyndham	...	...	£3000
b. Jetty head, Vasse	...	...	1000
c. Bushing Gascoyne River...	...	...	1500
d. River Improvement and Steam Dredge	...	...	2000
Total	...	...	£7500

MR. SHENTON asked for some explanation as to the first item. He found

from the return laid on the table, called for by the hon. member for Kimberley, that a loan of £3,554 had been already expended on this wharf at Wyndham.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said there must be some mistake there. He was sure there hadn't been anything like that spent on this jetty alone. He would look into the matter.

MR. BURT said it appeared that over £9,000 had been spent on public works at Wyndham, within the last two or three years, and he should be very glad if the Director of Public Works would say what he had to show for it.

MR. SHOLL said that since 1886, it appeared, no less than £38,868 had been spent upon public works in this district, exclusive of the road votes—another £2,000 or £3,000, and exclusive of loan expenditure. He was beginning to think the colony would have been better off if this Kimberley district had never been discovered. It was a disgraceful waste of public funds.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said, if progress were reported, he would obtain an explanation of the item referred to by Mr. Shenton—the expenditure upon the Wyndham jetty. He was satisfied there must be some mistake.

Progress reported.

#### SAND-DRIFT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

#### GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK BILL.

This bill was passed through committee, without discussion.

#### LAND REGULATIONS ARBITRATION BILL.

This bill was agreed to in committee, without comment.

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