

MR. KEANE thought these Easter reviews were among the most popular attractions of the force, not only here but in all parts of the world, and he thought it was only just to the Volunteers themselves that they should have this annual outing, in which they could all take part.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said, as to the best site for holding these encampments, he had seen some very disorderly and unsoldierly scenes when the encampment was held at Bullen's, owing to the proximity of the public house, and the facilities for obtaining drink. But he believed things had changed for the better under a more recent *régime*. He thought, however, that Easter was a bad time of the year for holding these outdoor encampments, and that it would be better if they could be arranged to be held about September or October, when the weather was more suitable.

The motion to strike out the item "Easter Encampment, £250" was negatived, on the voices; and the vote put and passed.

*Mining*, Item £2,180 read:

Question—put and passed.

*Special Coast Survey*, Item £3,000 read:

Question—put and passed.

*Works and Buildings*, Item £13,600 read:

MR. KEANE moved that progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Question—put and passed.

Progress reported.

#### MESSAGE (No. 9): REPLYING TO ADDRESSES.

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

"The Governor has the honor to return the following replies to Addresses received from Your Honorable House during the present Session:—

"No. 2, dated 17th October, 1888—

"Increase of Road Vote for 1889.

"The Council will observe, from the Estimates now under discussion, that this request has been complied with.

"No. 4, dated 26th October, 1888—

"Boring for Water.

"It is proposed to make provision for this service on the Loan Estimates for 1889.

"No. 6, dated 30th October, 1888—  
"Disease in Cattle.

"No. 8, dated 5th November, 1888—  
"Beverley-Albany Railway lands.

"No. 12, dated 14th November, 1888—Free lease to Mr. J. G. Poulton.

"No. 13, dated 16th November, 1888—Pearl Shell Fishery: Federal Bill.

"No. 14, dated 19th November, 1888—Conference respecting defence of King George's Sound.

"No. 15, dated 19th November, 1888—Power to re-open streets.

"Action will be taken in accordance with these Addresses.

"Government House, 23rd November, 1888."

#### GOLDFIELDS LICENSING BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 26th November, 1888.

Petition: Bayswater-Busselton Railway—Water-boring machines—Railway and Tramway Bills: New Standing Orders—Wharf accommodation and Water Supply at Wyndham—Message (No. 10): Assenting to Bills—Examination of Coal Measures at Fitzgerald River by Government Geologist—Cemetery (Closure) Bill: first reading—Railway Act, 1878, Amendment (Closure of Streets) Bill: first reading—Estimates, 1889: further consideration—Law of Distress Amendment Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PETITION FROM CANNING RESIDENTS RE BAYSWATER-BUSSELTON RAILWAY.

MR. PARKER presented a petition signed by 95 residents of the Canning district with reference to the construction

of a railway from Bayswater to Busselton. The petitioners set out at some length the history of previous proposals in connection with this work, and prayed that the House would be pleased to present an address to the Governor praying that he would be pleased to take such steps as would secure the construction of the first section of the proposed line—from Bayswater to Jarrahdale—either directly by the State, or upon the land grant system as may be considered most advisable.

The petition was received, read, and ordered to be printed.

#### WATER-BORING MACHINES: COST OF.

MR. KEANE asked the Director of Public Works whether, taking into consideration the consent of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the new loan of £100,000, the Government had taken any steps to acquire information with respect to the best class and cost of water-boring machines that could be obtained—or whether they had put themselves in communication with any of the water-boring companies, on the subject of boring by contract.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) replied that the Government had not only taken every step possible to ensure the best method of boring for water, but had put themselves in communication with the other colonies, in order that they might advise them in the matter. He had received several tenders, and had no doubt that in a short time the Government would be able to state what would be the best way of spending money in this direction, and he had no doubt that a sum of money would be placed on the Loan Estimates for that purpose.

#### RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS BILLS: NEW STANDING ORDERS.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright), in accordance with notice, moved the adoption of the following new Standing Orders:

##### *Railway and Tramway Bills.*

98 a. "That any proposal laid upon the table for the construction of any railway or tramway, either by the Government or by private persons, shall

"be accompanied by a general plan of the proposed route, showing roughly its direction."

98b. "That, after a bill for the construction of a railway or a tramway has been introduced, by leave or otherwise, and before it shall be read a first time, there shall be laid on the table detailed plans and sections, showing the private lands affected by the construction of the line, the Government reserves, all public roads traversed or interfered with, the proposed method of dealing with them, either by diversion, level crossings, bridge or closure, the water courses in private occupation, &c."

98c. "That, after a bill for the construction of a railway or tramway shall have been read a first time, it shall be referred to a select committee, who shall require proof that copies of the said plans and sections have been sent to the Commissioner of Railways, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and to all roads boards and municipalities concerned, at least one month previous to the bill being referred to such Select Committee, for any remarks they may have to make on the subject, or so that they may, if they so desire, appear and be heard by counsel or otherwise before the Select Committee in defence of their interests."

The hon. gentleman said he had felt ever since he came to the colony that some such course as was prescribed in these new rules should be adopted here with regard to Railway Bills. The course proposed followed the practice in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. When any scheme for the construction of a railway or a tramway, was submitted to the House, either by the Government, or a syndicate of private persons, it was proposed that in future the scheme should be accompanied by a rough general plan of the proposed route; and that, afterwards, when the special bill for the construction of the line was introduced—and before it was read a first time—there should be laid on the table detailed plans and sections of the proposed line. These plans would show all the private lands through which the railway would run, and all the public roads it would traverse; they would also show every proposed crossing, or bridge, and the streets or roads proposed to be closed, and all particulars of that kind, so that

those who were interested—whether private individuals or public bodies—should have an opportunity of seeing what was proposed to be done; and, if they objected, that they should have an opportunity of stating their objections before the bill authorising the construction of the line was read a second time. He thought these new Standing Orders, which were introduced solely in the interests of the public, would meet with general approval; and, as they were based upon the rules of procedure observed in the Imperial Parliament, he thought the House might safely adopt them.

MR. PARKER said it appeared to him these orders would be very useful in the future. The only thing that struck him was whether it was worth while the House adopting them at this late stage of its existence. They knew that the days of the present Council were numbered, and that in a few days probably the House would be dissolved, and the existing Standing Orders would no longer have any force. The new Council would have to adopt its own Standing Orders, and he thought these new orders would be found very useful to be incorporated with them. The only objection he had to them now was that it seemed a waste of time to adopt them, just as the present Council was about to expire.

MR. A. FORREST thought the new rules would throw a good deal of extra expense upon the promoters of any fresh railway schemes. [THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS: Not at all.] They would have to prepare very elaborate plans before their schemes could be brought before the House. [THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS: Not at all.] The second rule provided that detailed plans and sections, showing every crossing and bridge, and every street proposed to be closed and all particulars, should be laid on the table. That must cost a lot of money, in the case of a large scheme, such as the proposed line from York to Eucla. He thought it would be quite sufficient if the promoters showed a general plan showing the proposed route. [THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS: That is all that is proposed, at first.] So long as that was understood, he saw no great objection to them.

MR. VENN presumed that any company or syndicate bringing forward a

railway scheme before the House would decide upon the route long before submitting their scheme, and in any case, they must have plans prepared before they could do anything with their scheme. Therefore he failed to see that there would be any extra expense. [THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS: Not a penny.] He thought it was very desirable that all this information should be placed before the House before the House committed itself to any bill for the construction of a railway.

MR. MARMION said the House must be guided in these matters to a large extent by the hon. gentleman who represented the Railway Department in the House. At first sight there certainly did appear to him to be a certain element of danger in adopting these new Standing Orders, as they seemed to place some difficulties in the way of companies and others desirous of bringing any railway projects before the House, on the land grant or the guarantee system. But if the Commissioner assured them such would not be the case, he should offer no opposition to their adoption. He did not know whether it was usual to have Standing Orders of this kind inserted among the ordinary Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the House; he should have thought these were matters that would better be dealt with in a bill. It might be the practice in the House of Commons and in the Legislative Assemblies of large and flourishing communities to have Standing Orders of this nature; but he could not help thinking that the matter was one that could be dealt with better here by means of special legislation. It was quite new matter so far as our Standing Orders were concerned.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said it might be new matter so far as our Standing Orders were concerned, but, so far as he understood the practice of the House of Commons, this was simply assimilating our practice with that of the Commons. Some hon. members appeared to have a very much greater amount of tenderness and thought for the interests and convenience of companies and syndicates than they had for the interests and convenience of the public. If we only had had Standing Orders of this kind in force years ago, he was sure we should not

have had any of that extreme annoyance, and trouble, and difficulties they had recently had in the town of Albany with reference to the closure of streets; and he thought we should avoid any such troubles in the future by adopting this new procedure with regard to railway proposals.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS** (Hon. J. A. Wright) assured the House the adoption of these Standing Orders would entail no additional expense upon the promoters of railways, with regard to the preparation of plans and sections. It was only proposed that a general map of the proposed route should be supplied in the first instance, when the proposal was introduced—just an ordinary map of the colony, which could be purchased for a few shillings, with a red-pencil mark showing roughly the course which the railway proposed to take. This would be before any bill authorising the construction of the line, or confirming any proposal, should be introduced. Then, if the House thought the scheme was one which it might take into its consideration, with a view to its approval, that detailed plans and sections, showing the precise route which the line would traverse, should be laid on the table, before the House proceeded to deal with the scheme in detail, so that everyone interested, or likely to be affected by the railway, should have an opportunity of objecting if they thought proper, and defending their own interests before any damage was done.

**MR. KEANE** saw no objection whatever to the proposed rules, except perhaps that they might be attached to the Railway Act, instead of having them among the Standing Orders. He was sure if some such rules had been in operation years ago they would have saved much heartburning and much growling. In the other colonies, all this had to be done when a new railway line was proposed; and he did not see how anyone going in for a railway could object to have the plans placed before the Legislature.

The motion was agreed to.

#### WHARF ACCOMMODATION AND WATER SUPPLY AT WYNDHAM.

**MR. A. FORREST**, 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 place the sum of £2,000 out of the loan of £100,000 for wharf accommodation at Wyndham, and £1,000 for proving a permanent supply of water on the townsite." The hon. member said he was sure he would have the support of the House in this matter. The port of Wyndham was the principal outlet for the fine stock country in that part of the colony, as well as for the goldfields; and it was most necessary that something should be done to provide wharfage accommodation for the steamers to come alongside, instead of having to throw the greater portion of their cargo overboard into the mud. [The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is provided for on the Loan Estimates.] He was glad to hear it. Then he need say nothing more. He also proposed that the small sum of £1,000 should be expended in providing a water supply. There was no fresh water at present on the townsite, and it had to be carted a long distance. Wyndham had given them a good deal of revenue from the sale of town lots—some thousands of pounds—and the least they could do was to try and give them fresh water.

**MR. RICHARDSON** thought it would be well to wait for the returns which the hon. member had given notice of, showing the expenditure already made upon public works at Wyndham.

**MR. MARMION** said he did not propose to object to the address, but he must once more call attention to the desirability of having definite plans of all proposed public works placed before the House before they were asked to agree to such works. He thought this was absolutely necessary before they could fairly deal with works of this kind, and see whether what was proposed to be done would answer the object in view. A great deal of money had been wasted upon public works in this Northern portion of the colony, simply because they were not what was required, and because the House had no information to guide it when sanctioning them. He hoped the Director of Public Works would be prepared with plans showing what was proposed to be done, so that the House might see whether it would answer the requirements of the place. If they found that they gave the good people of Wynd-

ham all that they required, there would be no opposition, he thought, to voting the money.

MR. PARKER said he for one was not at all prepared to give the Wyndham people everything they desired. He thought the Northern people had got a great deal more public money expended there than they were entitled to. The Government seemed to think a great deal about the North—it was always something for the North; during the last few years many thousands of pounds had been expended at Derby and Wyndham, and other places at the North. The Government, apparently, had lost sight of the fact that there were Southern districts in this colony as well as Northern districts. Certainly these Southern portions of the colony had been sadly neglected of late, in the matter of local public works. He should certainly object to this address being passed until they had the Loan Estimates before them, so that they might see whether these works could be undertaken, and justice at the same time done to the requirements of other parts of the colony. He therefore moved the adjournment of the debate until Wednesday evening, when he understood the Loan Estimates would be laid before them.

MR. A. FORREST hoped the hon. member would not adjourn the debate, as he would not be in the House on Wednesday evening, but on his way to the other colonies. It was admitted on all hands that these works were most urgently required, and he hoped there would be no opposition to them.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said—without wishing to make any promises so far as the Government were concerned—there was no doubt that the port of Wyndham was languishing for the want of wharfage accommodation, and for the want of a local supply of fresh water. No doubt this Kimberley district had been a tremendous call upon the resources of the colony, but he very much questioned after all whether we had not received more from it than we had expended on it. Great things were yet expected from this district, and he hoped their expectations would be realised. Apart from the goldfields, the country was fertile, very fertile indeed, and he believed the district

was one that deserved every encouragement from us. More than that, he thought we ought to be awake, and think about exploiting other parts of the district, at present altogether unknown. If we wanted to hold Western Australia together, one and undivided, instead of having it split into two, it behoved us to find out at any rate what we have got up there. At present there was a great deal of country, as they were all aware, between King Sound and Cambridge Gulf, that was altogether unknown.

MR. VENN supported the motion for adjourning the debate, until they had the Loan Estimates and some further information before them.

Motion for the adjournment of the debate carried.

#### MESSAGE (No. 10): ASSENTING TO BILLS.

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

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has this day assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Bills:—

3. "*An Act for the purpose of establishing a Holiday to commemorate the Foundation of Australia.*"

4. "*An Act to confirm certain Expenditure for the year One thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.*"

5. "*An Act to amend and consolidate the Law relating to Patents for Inventions.*"

6. "*An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Fraudulent Marks on Merchandise.*"

7. "*An Act to amend the Law respecting Quarantine.*"

8. "*An Act for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of Gold found in or procured from the soil of the Colony.*"

9. "*An Act to further amend 'The Boat Licensing Act, 1878.'*"

10. "*An Act to amend 'The Poor Houses Discipline Act, 1882.'*"

11. "*An Act to amend 'The Scab Act, 1885,' and to prevent the spread of Disease in Stock.*"

"2. The authenticated copies of the Acts are returned herewith.

"Government House, 26th November, 1888."

# COAL MEASURES AT THE FITZGERALD RIVER.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved: "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that, so soon as other urgent work upon which the Government Geologist may be engaged shall have been completed, His Excellency will direct that Mr. Woodward should proceed to the Fitzgerald River with a view of examining the alleged coal measures in the neighborhood of that river." The hon. baronet said that soon after the Government Geologist arrived he had intended asking the Government that he should be sent down to visit this southern part of the colony, but the discoveries of gold had since overshadowed all other claims upon their attention. Now, however, that coal, or a substance which resembled it, had been discovered at the Irwin, this discovery had again directed his attention to what he had intended doing before. He did not know whether hon. members had read the geological reports of the Rev. Mr. Nicolay, who was sent to the Irwin and to the Fitzgerald River some years ago to examine those neighborhoods for coal, which Mr. Gregory years before had reported upon at the Irwin and the late Captain Roe at the Fitzgerald River. Mr. Nicolay, in his "Hand book of Western Australia," referring to the geological formation of these two places, classified the substance found in both localities in the same category. He said: "Among the erupted schistose rocks on the Irwin, Phillips, and Fitzgerald rivers, has been found—as probably there will be elsewhere—strata containing a semi-bituminous deposit which has been taken for coal." The inference to be drawn from this remark, viewed in conjunction with other reports made by Mr. Nicolay, was that in his opinion these appearances were deceptive, and nothing having the value of true coal was likely to be discovered in these localities. He remembered Mr. Nicolay telling him that in his opinion it was impossible that coal should be discovered at either place, the Irwin or Fitzgerald River, because the formation was what geologists called too recent, the strata not being of sufficient depth. They now found that Mr. Nicolay had made a mis-

take at any rate about the Irwin, where a substance very like coal had recently been discovered, with the prospect that at a lower depth true coal, the coal of commerce, will be found; and as a mistake had been made at the Irwin it was possible that the same mistake had been made at the Fitzgerald, both formations being classed in the same category. He therefore thought it was very desirable that the Government Geologist, as soon as his services were available, should be sent to see whether coal was not also to be found in the other locality.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said if it was clearly to be understood that it was only after other urgent work had been completed that the Government Geologist should be sent down to this locality there could be no reason why this address should not be presented. But he might say that there was a great deal of urgent work now demanding Mr. Woodward's attention, and, for that reason, he was now returning from the North almost immediately in order that he might proceed southward to report upon the recent tin discoveries. There was urgent work also requiring his attention in the Eastern portion of the colony, and he could hold out no hope to the hon. baronet that Mr. Woodward's services would be available for this other work at a very early date. Still, there could be no harm in having this address on record, if it was the desire of the House that a further examination should be made of this supposed carboniferous country,—on the clear understanding that this should only be done after other more urgent work had been completed, and not before.

MR. SHENTON opposed the motion. There was a great deal of much more pressing and more important work than this waiting for the Government Geologist, considering the large extent of alluvial auriferous country supposed to exist eastward of Northam where Mr. Woodward might advantageously spend a good length of time to the great advantage of the colony. He thought the movements of the Government Geologist should not be hampered by any resolutions of that House, but be left entirely in the hands of the Government, who were in a position to recognise the claims of each district to his services.

MR. A. FORREST failed to see why anyone should oppose the motion, for it appeared to him it meant nothing—it committed them to nothing. It was only after he had completed his other work that it was asked to have the Government Geologist sent to the Fitzgerald River.

MR. RICHARDSON thought there was a great deal more important work awaiting the Government Geologist than this; and he hoped, if the House passed this address the Government would not think that the House regarded this work as one of urgent importance. He thought the Government Geologist ought first to be sent to Pilbarra, for we had had no geological report of that locality yet, and, judging from recent telegrams, it promised to be the most important of our gold-fields.

MR. PARKER said if he thought with the hon. member for Kimberley that the resolution meant nothing there could be no objection to it. But he thought it meant a good deal, and that if the House passed it the Government would be justified in coming to the conclusion that the House regarded this work as one of primary importance, seeing that it had gone out of its way to call the attention of the Government to it, which had not been done with regard to any other locality. He thought that, apart from the auriferous localities requiring the presence of the Government Geologist, the recent discovery of tin in the vicinity of Bridgetown was of much more urgent importance than this. But if they passed this resolution the Government would naturally imagine that in the opinion of the House this was a most urgent and important work, and that no time should be lost in sending Mr. Woodward down there, whereas, so far as he could make out, there was no great or immediate necessity for his going down there at all.

SIR T. COCKBURN - CAMPBELL was afraid he was likely to get more sympathy from the Government than from the House, in this matter, and that he had better leave it in the hands of the Government. The other night, when the Director of Public Works made an amendment to the House of the result of the experiment made with coal from the Irwin, the House seemed so delighted, and cheered so loudly, that he thought hon. members would have been anxious

that an examination should also be made of another locality, where it had been reported the same geological formation existed as at the Irwin. The resolution in no way pledged the Government to send Mr. Woodward down there at once, but when his services were available, after the completion of other urgent work. As, however, the resolution did not appear to be likely to receive much support he had no wish to press it, in the belief that the Government would give the subject their best attention, when the time came.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

#### CEMETERY (CLOSURE) BILL.

Read a first time.

#### RAILWAY ACT, 1878, AMENDMENT (CLOSURE OF STREETS) BILL.

SIR T. COCKBURN - CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved for leave to introduce a bill to enable the Governor in Council to reopen streets closed under the provisions of the 42nd Vict. No. 31 (Railways Act).

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### ESTIMATES, 1889.

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

*Works and Buildings*, Item £13,600 read:

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) moved that the item "Public Buildings, £2,500," be reduced by £1,000.

Agreed to.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) moved that the following new item be added "Gascoyne Water Supply, £700."

MR. MARMION asked whether the Government were satisfied that this sum would be sufficient to do what was proposed to be done?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had made an estimate of the probable cost when he was up there, and a surveyor who was with him did the same, and they both thought that a water supply could be obtained for about £700.

MR. PEARSE asked whether it was the intention of the Government to pro-

vide any improved accommodation for receiving and storing cargo at Fremantle, on its landing? It would be in the recollection of the House that some time ago a building was erected which was supposed to be applied to this purpose, but it been "jumped" by the Collector of Customs who now used it as a bonded store; and at present there was no provision at all for receiving goods on their being landed. He thought it was really time something should be done in this matter.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he perfectly agreed with the hon. member that something should be done. The building or shed referred to was originally intended, as the hon. member said, as a warehouse for goods *in transitu*, but the Customs authorities took possession of it before it was actually finished, and he had never been able to get possession of it since. He believed if the building were handed over to the Wharfinger, as it ought to be, a great deal of the present block on the jetty would be avoided.

MR. MARMION said somebody must be responsible for this building being diverted from the object for which it was intended, and which a Commission had recommended. He did not think it was too late yet to apply it to its intended purpose, seeing the number of private bonded warehouses there were now at Fremantle.

MR. SHENTON said the great fault with the public buildings designed by the Works Department was their elaborate and costly character. A galvanised iron shed, costing £200 or £300 would have answered for this purpose just as well as an expensive structure, which swallowed up so much money, unnecessarily. When in Sydney recently he saw the "P. & O.," the "Orient," and the "Messageries" Co.'s sheds, and he might say that the whole three did not cost as much as our one. This was the way our money went. We went in for too elaborate buildings. The sheds in Sydney were simple galvanised iron sheds, with no ambitious attempt at architecture, and, surely what would suit Sydney with its large trade, and what suited these great shipping companies, ought to be good enough for this colony.

The vote was then put and passed.

*Roads and Bridges*, £11,000.

Agreed to, without discussion.

*Ecclesiastical Grant*, Item £3,543 read:

MR. A. FORREST said that during the two sessions he had been a member of the House he had opposed this grant, and he opposed it now on the same grounds, namely, that those who professed to be religiously inclined should support their own particular religion. He did not see how the House could be asked to support four different sects, each of which was trying to take us to heaven in a different way. He moved that the vote be reduced by one-half; and he believed that on this occasion he should get the support of a large number of members. He believed those who were in favor of the vote at all, simply supported it on the ground that it had been on the Estimates for a great many years, and that to strike it out might be interfering with vested interests. He had no wish to interfere with the vested rights of those clergymen who had a claim upon this fund, but there were very few of them left. He thought the House ought to get a return from the various denominations, showing how they spent this money.

MR. MARMION said the hon. member for Kimberley talked about those who were trying to take us to heaven in different ways, yet the hon. member wanted to reduce the vote by one-half, which, according to the hon. member's argument, would reduce his chance of getting there at all. He (Mr. Marmion) objected to accepting that risk, and he thought other members would object. He was sure the hon. member was not in earnest in this matter. [MR. A. FORREST: Yes, I am.] The hon. member did not mean it. [MR. A. FORREST: Yes, I do.] He was sorry to hear it. He should regret very much to see this vote reduced, considering the circumstances of this colony, its vast extent, and the scattered population to be provided with religious ministrations.

MR. MORRISON thought the vote was either too small or too large. It was too small to provide the clergy with a sufficient stipend, too small to serve any good purpose, while, on the other hand, it afforded people an excuse for withholding private assistance from their



clergy. He should like to see it either increased, so as to enable the various churches to support their ministers out of it, or else taken off altogether. But he objected to its withdrawal at once. He thought due notice ought to be given to the religious bodies concerned, that in a few years the grant would cease.

MR. SHENTON said he was of the same opinion with regard to this matter that he was last session—that none of the grant should be expended in the central towns, but devoted entirely to providing for the wants of outlying districts. Surely the two principal towns of the colony, Perth and Fremantle, ought to be in a position to maintain their own clergy, without encroaching on this small vote. He did not suppose he would be in order now, but he proposed moving a resolution providing that no portion of the grant should be expended in the towns of Perth and Fremantle.

MR. RICHARDSON said they were told every year that the time would shortly arrive when the vote would be abolished—that was the general excuse. But it always came up smiling again, as fresh as ever. The stereotyped argument was that the vote had existed since the early days of the colony. But he would point out that the circumstances of the colony had altered widely since then. In those days the population of the colony was very small, and widely scattered, even in the more central parts, and there were other circumstances in those days which necessitated the employment of chaplains—circumstances which no longer existed. He was opposed to the vote on principle. He thought it could not be defended on any logical principle. It was more illogical than if the State supported one particular church, believing it to be the only orthodox and true church. Here the grant was distributed between four denominations, and there was no logical reason why it should not be distributed among the Jews, or the Chinese, or to support Buddhism, or Mahomedanism, or any other "ism." As he said last year when the vote was before them, it was simply a relic of that religious persecution and intolerance which raged in the Dark Ages, because it compelled people to support a religion which they had no faith in; it compelled the Roman Catholic to support Protestantism,

and it called upon Protestants to contribute towards the promulgation of Papal doctrines. If this was the age of religious tolerance which they boasted it was, if it was the age of liberty of conscience and freedom of thought, it was inconsistent with the spirit of the age that this vote should be allowed to remain, so long as there was a single dissentient voice raised against it. No man should be compelled to vote against his own conscience, much less should anyone be compelled to pay for the support of what he conscientiously believed to be wrong. He was surprised that any intelligent body of men in this logical enlightened nineteenth century could be found willing to perpetuate this remnant of the old days of persecution and intolerance. It could not be defended on the ground that such aid was necessary to maintain the vitality of the Church. The history of other countries completely upset that argument. They would not find the greatest vitality among religious bodies where religion depended upon the State for aid; on the contrary they would find that where religion was dependent upon the assistance of the State, rather than upon the support of its professing adherents, the more it languished; and that where it relied for its support upon the willing contributions of those who professed it the greater was its vitality. He thought it was a mistake to introduce such a principle as this into any free country, and he was sorry to find there were persons here who were so illogical as to wish to perpetuate what was not only an anachronism but a positive outrage upon the conscientious feelings of large sections of the population. How anyone who looked back into the past history of religious persecution in the mother country should wish to revive it in these free communities he was at a loss to understand. He thought it was discreditable to us as a community and a shame to our religious tolerance.

MR. HORGAN said he was quite opposed to State aid to religion. In his native country his own religion had been persecuted, but it thrived without any State aid; and the Church that formerly was endowed with the revenues of the State continued in a sickly and languishing condition while that connection lasted, but now that it had been dis-

established it had become healthier, and shown some signs of vitality. On principle he believed this grant ought to be abolished altogether, at once; but, as the present was a period of great depression and the flocks of the various Churches could ill afford to contribute as liberally as they otherwise might towards the support of their clergy, he thought the present would be an inopportune time to abolish the vote. There was another reason. They had now come pretty well to the end of their tether, so far as that House was concerned, they had only a short period of existence left; and he thought it would be well to leave this matter for the new Council to deal with. Still, if the matter went to a division, he was bound to be consistent, and he should vote against the grant.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he did not wish to import a religious element into the discussion: he took his stand on the practical ground that he believed this grant to the various Christian denominations did good to the people of the country. [Mr. VENN: How do you know?] He said he believed it did. Everyone must admit that religious teaching and the dissemination of Christian truths among a community, and especially among the young, was an excellent thing; and he should like to know how they were going to reach this widely scattered community of ours, spread over an enormous territory, unless some aid was given out of public funds. No one could estimate the good moral influence which the presence of an educated cultured clergyman had in a community whose surroundings were such as those among which people in a rough colony like this existed; and he was surprised that any real well-wisher of the colony should wish to withdraw these salutary influences. Did they wish to see the rising generation brought up without any religious teaching at all? Did they want these children in the bush to grow up as if they were only kangaroos? His own opinion was that it would be a bad day for the colony, if the influences of religious instruction were withdrawn from amongst our country population, and especially the rising generation, for he was one of those who believed that moral principles were inculcated in people,

rather than that they were an innate part of our humanity. They all knew that the clergy in this colony were very poorly supported, and that we had gentlemen of University education and men of culture and refinement laboring in outlying parts of the colony, eking out a mere existence; and, if this grant were abolished, they would have to leave the place altogether. He should be extremely sorry if this vote were struck off or reduced, for he believed it was calculated to do an amount of good that was not easily estimated.

MR. SHENTON said the Commissioner of Lands seemed to support the view which he himself took of this vote, that it ought to be confined to outlying country places, where the clergy were wretchedly paid, and that none of this grant should be expended among the comparatively wealthy congregations of Perth and Fremantle. He thought that would not only be better for the interests of the community at large, but also more in accord with the general feeling of the House. No portion of the small share of the grant received by the denomination to which he belonged, the Wesleyan body, was expended in these towns; it was all devoted towards making up the stipends of country ministers.

MR. VENN said he was unable to follow some of the arguments he had heard. Personally he was entirely opposed to the principle of State aid to religion, and he hoped the day was not far distant when the whole thing would be abolished, believing as he did that, so far from religion suffering thereby, it would benefit by it, in the increased vitality and liberality of its professors. He thought he should be able to support the motion which the hon. member for Toodyay said he intended introducing, for he looked upon it as the insertion of the thin end of the wedge for abolishing the grant altogether. With regard to the motion now before the committee, he felt bound to support it, as an instalment of what was to come. He could not give any weight to the argument that this grant ought not to be withdrawn without giving the various denominational bodies some notice. They had received this warning for years past, and he had persistently and consistently voted against the continuance of the vote session after

session, in the hope that the time was not far distant when he should see this blot upon our colonial Estimates removed.

MR. RANDELL was glad to see there was a growing feeling in favor of abolishing this Ecclesiastical Grant, to the various bodies now receiving it. They were aware that there were other churches in the colony who conscientiously abstained from participating in the grant. He had been opposed to the principle of State aid to religion from his earliest days, and that opposition had been intensified when he came to study the cruel injustice done under it towards the free churches in the mother country. But notwithstanding this injustice, those churches had thriven and flourished, with ever increasing vitality, and no one would deny that they had been a wonderful stimulus to the cause of religion in the old country; he believed that without the vitality infused by these self-supporting and independent bodies the cause of true religion in England would have received a severe blow, and probably have had its functions severely paralysed. His own opinion was that this grant did not operate beneficially in our own colony, not even in country districts. There was no reason to believe at any rate that it produced any large degree of vitality among some of the churches participating in it. He had heard of country congregations consisting only of the sexton or clerk and the minister, and that not for one or two Sundays, but for a considerable time. He thought that was a state of things that ought not to be supported out of the funds of the State. With regard to the Commissioner of Crown Lands' argument, he thought it was rather an argument in favor of religious instruction in schools; he was not aware that the clergy devoted much of their time to the training and education of the young. He had been much struck by a speech once made by the late Dr. Short, formerly Bishop of Adelaide, when this question of State aid was under discussion in South Australia. During the progress of the controversy when it was proposed to abolish the grant, it appeared that some very hard things were said, and very strong feelings had been excited, but everyone (the Bishop said), himself among them, now looked back with

pleasure and satisfaction to the time when State aid to religion was abolished in the colony; that it had produced the most happy results; and that he did not believe there was a single denomination who wished to go back to the former state of things. He (Mr. Randell) believed the results here would be equally gratifying, and that the withdrawal of this prop would have the effect of stimulating the private liberality of the members of every denomination, and induce what he might call a missionary spirit among the various churches in our larger towns. Surely a denomination that could afford to spend £17,000 in the erection of a Cathedral could not be said to be in need of this small pittance to support its ministrations; and he felt certain that, if this grant were withdrawn, the various churches now receiving it would prove equal to the occasion. He believed it was an act of injustice towards those who conscientiously refused to receive such aid, and that it was against all right principle that the State should subsidise particular forms of religion in this way. As an instance of the viciousness of the principle, he might mention what took place only a few years ago, when the Presbyterian Church authorities, by an advertisement in the public press, called upon all Presbyterians throughout the colony to register themselves as such, as the grant was allotted on the basis of the number of adherents to each denomination. They knew that the ministrations of that body were confined to Perth and Fremantle—at that time he believed they were confined to Perth alone; and he simply mentioned the matter to show how this grant was worked, and how it operated, and how it might be abused. No return was furnished to the House showing how this grant was expended by the various Churches who participated in it. Perhaps it might not be desirable to abolish the grant at once, but gradually reduce it—though he admitted that was not a very logical position to take; but he did hope the time was close at hand when the Legislature that would succeed them would see that it was in the best interests of the colony, and in the best interests of the various sectarian denominations themselves, that State aid to religion should be abolished.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said he rose to correct a fallacy which prevailed not only amongst members of that House, but which was generally prevalent amongst Englishmen at home and abroad—the fallacy that the Church of England was a State-aided Church, and that she derived her revenues or her property from the State. That was not a fact. She had derived her property from pious persons in former days who had bequeathed their lands for the support of religion. That was a historic fact. [Mr. RANDALL: Only partially so.] For every penny that the Church had derived from the State she had derived more than a pound from pious benefactions, and she held her property by exactly the same title as any Dissenting body held its chapel or other property, and by no other title. His hon. friend the Commissioner of Crown Lands said he did not wish to speak as a religious man upon this question. He (the Attorney General) did speak as a religious man. He believed, as a Christian, in a community that sought to have the blessing of Almighty God upon its work and its religion; and, more than that, he believed as a lawyer in the dictum once laid down by one of England's greatest lawyers, that Christianity was part and parcel of the common law of England. He thought that the Church in this colony, as a daughter of a venerable mother might be supposed in some sense to have inherited that sacred feeling, and that intimate association between Christianity and the State. He thought it also on a higher ground—that this country ought to acknowledge in some way the existence of the Supreme Being. We did so in our courts of justice. [Mr. RICHARDSON: Another remnant of persecution.] No one could deny that the influence of the clergy and the ministers of the various Christian denominations was beneficial, and there were few amongst us who would deny that it was our duty to indicate in some way our belief in the Providence of God. This Ecclesiastical Grant presented that belief in a concrete form. As his friend the Commissioner of Crown Lands had said, the influence of the clergy over the minds of the young could not fail to do good, more especially so considering the Godless kind of educa-

tion that now prevailed in many places. He would ask anyone whether this vote—£3,543 among 42,000 people—could be considered too large a contribution towards the support of religion in a country like this? It was only a few shillings a head. He did not understand the hon. member for Kimberley's rough and ready proposal to reduce the vote by one-half. Why one-half? It did not show much consideration of the exact necessities of the case. He hoped there would be no reduction of the vote. As they had prayers daily in that House before proceeding to business, invoking the blessing of God upon their work, thereby acknowledging their belief in a Supreme Being, so, also, when God's humble servants and ministers, commissioned by Him to spread the Gospel among all people, showed themselves anxious and willing to do so, and were tied down in their efforts, by poverty, he thought we could not in a better way show our belief in God than by voting something towards supplying his ministers with the means of extending their efforts in that direction.

MR. RICHARDSON said they were told by the learned Attorney General that England was not a State-aided country so far as religion was concerned. When the hon. and learned gentleman made that statement he opened up a very wide field for controversy. But he presumed it would not be in order at the present time to enter upon that controversy. If England, which they had looked to for centuries as a country in which the Church was under the protection of the State—if England herself did not have this State-aid to religion, then it appeared to him that we in this colony were out-heroding Herod in this matter. The hon. and learned gentleman also told them that Christianity was part of the common law of England, and, in proof of it, he referred to the practice of administering oaths in our Courts of Justice. He (Mr. Richardson) submitted that in that very act we showed that Christianity was not the common law of the land, for the Author and Founder of Christianity had said "Swear not at all." The hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands said if we did not continue this Ecclesiastical Grant the rising generation would be brought up as ignorant as kangaroos, without any

moral sense or perception of right and wrong. The hon. gentleman when he made that statement must have forgotten the history of other countries, where there was no State-aided religion, and where ecclesiastical grants did not figure among the annual votes of the Legislature. Did the hon. gentleman mean to say that in Victoria, and in South Australia, and in the other colonies where there was no State-aid to religion the rising generation were brought up in a state of heathenism, and received no moral training? [The COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS: They are differently circumstanced from what we are.] He had a better belief of this community than the hon. gentleman seemed to have. He believed that if this grant of a few thousand pounds were withdrawn our various bodies might be entrusted to continue their teaching and their ministrations, and that, so far from being discouraged thereby, there would be a stronger vitality infused into the work. The history of other countries had shown them that, and he was not aware of anything in this colony that took it out of the category of other British communities.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) regretted that for the first time in that House a religious element had been introduced into the discussion of this vote. They had had this item on the Estimates ever since the present Constitution had been in existence, and he was afraid that some hon. members did not regard it in its proper light. He looked upon it simply as a matter of contract. An arrangement was entered into between the Churches and the Government in 1871, by which the salaries up to that time annually voted for individual chaplains, both of the Church of England and the Church of Rome, were commuted, and the religious bodies had this fixed sum placed on the Estimates, to be divided among them *pro rata*, leaving it to the heads of the various denominations to allocate it as they deemed proper. That contract or arrangement was entered into in good faith on both sides, and he should be very sorry if, under this form of Government at any rate, that contract were in any way abrogated or departed from. In any case, he thought the agreement should not be departed from without due

notice being given, as was given in the case of the withdrawal of the Imperial grant for magistracy and police, which, during the last ten years, had been gradually reduced, until at last it had vanished altogether.

MR. MARMION said he joined with the Colonial Secretary in regretting the fact that any religious feelings or differences had been introduced into this discussion. He thought it would only have a mischievous effect. It was a new style of argument that had been introduced by the hon. member, Mr. Randell—that because a certain religious body had thought proper to endeavor to increase its share of the grant, already very small, by appealing to its members to register themselves as such, the grant should therefore be withdrawn altogether. Because a denomination considered it was not getting its fair share of the vote, based upon the numerical strength of each denomination,—because it took some steps to have its share increased, and to get what it considered it was justly entitled to, it was a curious argument to say that for that reason the grant ought to be withdrawn altogether, from all denominations. [Mr. RANDELL: That was not my argument at all.] For his own part he doubted whether those who were so free in their utterances and so lofty in their talk about religious tolerance, freedom of opinion, liberty of conscience, free churches, and all that—he doubted very much, if it came to the test, whether they would be so ready after all to put their hands in their pockets to support their churches, if this grant were withdrawn. What did the grant amount to after all? About 1s. 8d. per head of the population,—a mere nothing. [Mr. RANDELL: All the more reason why it should be withdrawn.] Did the hon. member really think that if this assistance were withdrawn the various denominations would be able to do more without it than with it? As a matter of fact, the grant was now being gradually reduced, in a sense, and had been so for years back, for the population had increased considerably since the amount of the grant was fixed, and there had been no corresponding increase of the grant. He thought it would be an unwise and an illiberal policy, and a policy that would reflect no credit upon that House, if, with

our widely-scattered community, our poor circumstances, and with our limited means, they deprived the various religious bodies of this small assistance out of public funds.

Question put—that the vote be reduced by one-half. A division was called for by Mr. A. Forrest, the result being—

Ayes ..	...	...	7
Noes ...	...	...	13

Majority against ... 6

**AYES.**  
Mr. Horgan  
Mr. Keane  
Mr. Pearce  
Mr. Randell  
Mr. Richardson  
Mr. Venn  
Mr. A. Forrest (Teller.)

**NOES.**  
Mr. E. R. Brockman  
Mr. Congdon  
Hon. J. Forrest  
Mr. Harper  
Mr. Marinton  
Mr. Morrison  
Mr. Parker  
Mr. Scott  
Mr. Sholl  
Hon. Sir J. G. Lee Storer, Kt.  
Hon. C. N. Warton  
Hon. J. A. Wright  
Hon. Sir M. Fraser, B.C.M.G.  
(Teller.)

The item was then passed.

*Literary, Scientific, and Agricultural Grant, £1,200:*

MR. A. FORREST asked what was the meaning of the item "Gratuity to Rev. C. G. Nicolay, £100."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it was in recognition of Mr. Nicolay's valuable services in connection with the geological museum and in other directions. The item was not a fixture in any way. It was omitted, and purposely omitted, from the Estimates last year, and he did not suppose it would ever appear again.

The vote was then agreed to.

*Pensions, £2,840:*

MR. PARKER said he noticed the names of several chaplains and clergymen on this list; he did not think the colony could be expected to provide an ecclesiastical grant to assist to pay the stipends of the clergy while they were in harness, and also give them a pension when they went out of harness; and, if any more names were added, he should certainly, if in the House, vote that they be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) explaining, said the practice which had been followed was that all chaplains who were paid out of colonial funds prior to the institution of the Ecclesiastical Grant, should upon their retire-

ment become entitled to a small pension. There were very few of them left.

Vote agreed to.

*Revenue Service, North-West Coast, £2,000:*

Agreed to.

*Central Board of Health, £215:*

MR. PARKER moved that the item "Incidental Expenses, £100" be reduced by £95. He thought £5 would be quite enough to provide the board with stationery, which he understood was what these incidental expenses chiefly consisted of. The Board, he believed, held very few meetings, and the Secretary had very little to do, apparently. From what he could see, all the work was done by the Local Board of Health.

MR. RANDELL said the Central Board of Health was the key of the whole system. It was expected to supply the Local Boards with scientific and practical information, to assist them in the discharge of their duties. But he was still of the same opinion as he was before the Act was passed, that it was a mistake to have two bodies—the Municipal Council and the Board of Health—charged with the management and control of sanitary matters; and he could not help thinking that the sooner the matter was entrusted to the Municipal authorities alone the better. He could not help speaking of the way in which money was now wasted,—in scavenging for instance.

MR. SHOLL thought the Central Board of Health ought to furnish an annual report, showing what it had done, and how the money voted by the House had been expended.

MR. CONGDON said he could speak of the usefulness of the Central Board, being himself chairman of a local board, which had received very great help on many occasions from the Central Board.

The motion to reduce the vote was negatived, and the item passed.

*Refunds, Item £622 10s. read:*

Question—put and passed.

*Immigration, Item £2,000 read:*

Question—put and passed.

*Geological Survey, Item £1,000 read:*

Question—put and passed.

*Miscellaneous, Item £23,422 13s. 4d. read:*

MR. VENN moved that the item "Queen's Plates, Perth and Roebourne,

£200," be struck out. He thought the time had arrived when racing could be supported by the contributions of those who patronised it.

MR. A. FORREST expressed his surprise at the audacity of the hon. member in moving to strike out this time-honored vote.

MR. E. R. BROCKMAN would support the motion to abolish the vote. It was all nonsense to say that these plates helped to improve the breed of horses. They encouraged racing and gambling, but he was sure they did not do much to encourage a better breed of horses.

MR. MARMION supported the vote. He thought it had done a good deal of good in the past, and was calculated to do good in the future. It was only one Queen's Plate for the whole of the North and one for the whole of the South. Surely they could afford that.

MR. HORGAN was against the vote. He could not understand why racing people could not support their own sport. He was told that thousands of pounds had been sent out of the colony in betting on the Melbourne Cup, and, if these people could afford to be so very liberal with their money, let them support racing nearer home.

MR. VENN did not think anyone who had opposed State aid to religion could stand up and support State aid to horse racing.

MR. RANDELL said he meant to be consistent, and oppose both grants. There was an element of injustice about this vote—apart from the principle involved. Why should these grants be limited to two clubs? Why should the whole colony be asked to contribute towards providing a day's sport for the people of Perth and the people of Roebourne?

MR. PARKER thought it would be a breach of faith to withdraw the grant for next year, as one of the clubs at any rate had advertised its programme, which included the Queen's Plate. If the hon. member brought forward his motion next year he should be prepared to support him, for he considered the circumstances of the colony and of racing had changed considerably since the Queen's Plate was first established. At one time it was the "blue riband" of the Western Australian turf, but now it was a race of second-

ary importance, entirely eclipsed by the Cup and other handicap races.

MR. RICHARDSON did not think this grant could be logically supported any more than the ecclesiastical grant. It was taking out of the pockets of thousands of taxpayers money to encourage a sport which they had no sympathy with.

MR. SHOLL said if the argument of the last speaker was of any value it applied with equal force to the grant to agricultural shows. One was said to encourage an improvement in the breed of horses; the other was to improve the breed of cattle and sheep, and there were thousands of people who cared no more for a cattle show, nor so much, as they did for a horse race.

MR. VENN said there was some force in the argument that to strike out the vote this year might be a breach of faith with the clubs, who had been calculating upon it. He would therefore bring forward another resolution.

Motion negatived.

MR. PARKER, referring to the item "Subsidy for Duplication of Sea Cable, £570," said the colony agreed to pay this subsidy in the event of all the other colonies contributing; but as some of those colonies had withdrawn from the agreement, he saw no reason why this colony should continue to pay this subsidy.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he considered the colony was still bound to contribute its share with the other colonies who were still contributing.

MR. PARKER said there was another vote: "Proportion of subsidy for New Guinea Commissionership, £166." We had paid this amount for several years past, but he saw no reason why we should continue to do so "world without end." We only agreed to contribute conditionally upon all the colonies joining in the vote, and we knew that some of them contributed nothing. The amount was not much, but he really failed to see why this colony should be more liberal than its richer neighbors. He moved that the item be struck out.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) hoped the hon. member would not press his motion this time, seeing that we were so near the end of the year. If the colony proposed to

withdraw from the arrangement, some notice should be given beforehand.

Motion withdrawn.

MR. HORGAN condemned the large expenditure upon stationery for public offices. He called it a gross waste of public money.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the strictest economy was exercised.

MR. SCOTT, referring to the item "Upkeep of Government House Domain, £426 13s. 4d.," said he thought all the expenditure in connection with the Government House and Domain should appear together, instead of being distributed all over the Estimates.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he was instructed to add a new item "Opening Port of Broome, £300." This was necessary in order not only to provide the necessary contingent expenses in connection with the Customs Department, but also, if requisite, to erect a small building for a bonded store. He felt satisfied the Customs revenue would considerably benefit by the expenditure of this small amount. The place was already a rendezvous for pearlers.

MR. SHOLL asked what the object was in opening this port? There was hardly any population there, and, so far as the pearlers were concerned, it was simply a watering place. He thought it was premature to open the port; and, as for a bonded store, he thought it would be much better if the Government gave them a bonded store at Carnarvon.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that under the new contract the Adelaide Steamship Co.'s steamers would go to this new port, and the *Australind* also. Within a few months we should also have the cable landed there, and an important telegraph station.

MR. VENN thought we should be careful in opening up fresh ports on this North-Western coast, seeing the immense expense we had already incurred at some of these ports, without any corresponding benefit. It struck him that if the House voted this money to open up another port, the Government next year would be asking for a larger vote, to provide for the appointment of a Resident Magistrate and other officials.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said they were deriving a good deal of land revenue from Roebuck Bay, and there was a considerable demand for town lots at Broome, and he believed the demand would continue, and that it would be a place of considerable importance by-and-bye.

MR. A. FORREST thought it would be money very well spent, and that the Government would soon recoup the expenditure, not only from the sale of town lots, but in Customs revenue.

MR. PARKER had no objection to this £300, if the expenditure was likely to end there. What he was afraid of was that this was only the thin end of the wedge for the introduction of other votes at the same port.

The committee divided upon the motion to add the item, and the numbers were—

Ayes ...	...	...	9
Noes ...	...	...	4

Majority for ... 5

AYES.	NOES.
Hon. J. Forrest	Captain Fawcett
Mr. A. Forrest	Mr. Handell
Mr. Harper	Mr. Scott
Mr. Horgan	Mr. Sholl (Teller.)
Mr. Morrison	
Mr. Venn	
Hon. C. N. Warton	
Hon. J. A. Wright	
Hon. Sir M. Fraser, <i>ex-officio</i>	
(Teller.)	

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) moved to add another new item "Printing Electoral Roll, £100." The necessity for having printed copies of the electoral roll had been brought prominently before the Government, and he had been in communication with the Government Printer as to the probable expense. Mr. Pether informed him he had not a supply of type on hand suitable for the work, as it would be necessary to keep it standing from year to year, with a view to any corrections that might be necessary; and it was proposed to obtain a supply of type for the purpose. It would be very convenient to have printed copies of the roll.

MR. PARKER: Is it proposed to print the electoral roll for the whole colony?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): Not at present. It is only proposed, as I understand, to do Perth at present. The type will no doubt suffice to print the roll for the whole colony, if necessary, hereafter.



MR. PARKER said he did not see why the electoral roll for Perth should be printed any more than that for any other district.

Item put and passed.

Estimates to be reported.

#### LAW OF DISTRESS AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. PARKER, in moving the second reading of a bill to amend the law of distress, said the bill was not his own, but had been introduced by the hon. and learned member for the North, who, unfortunately, was unable to attend. It was a very brief bill, and it dealt with a very old Act—an Act passed in the second year of the reign of their Majesties King William III. and Mary, which was an Imperial statute dealing with the law of distress. According to that Act, before any sale of goods distrained could legally take place, the goods had to be appraised and the value sworn before a constable of the district; and, although that old Act had been in force here for years, this provision had never been carried out, because there was no such an officer as a "constable" (within the meaning of the Act) in this colony, and, as a matter of fact, these distresses had been irregular, for that reason. The "constable" was an officer well known and recognised in England, and these appraisements had to be made before him; but, as there was no such officer here, it was proposed to repeal that portion of the Act, doing away with the necessity for appraisal before sale. The bill also provided a certain scale of fees in lieu of the English fees, for levying a distress, the English fees not being applicable here. For instance, the fee in England for a man in possession was very low, but here you could not get a man to act in that capacity under about 6s. a day, and that was the scale fixed by this bill. The other fees were applicable to local circumstances.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 27th November, 1888.*

Irregularity in the form of a Petition—Roads Bill: in committee—Representation of the colony at the Paris Exhibition: adjourned debate—Life Assurance Companies Bill: second reading: referred to select committee—Civil Service Life Insurance Bill: in committee—Supplementary Loan Bill: second reading—Cemetery (Closure) Bill: second reading—Aborigines Estimates—Immigration Estimates—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

#### IRREGULARITY IN THE FORM OF A PETITION.

THE SPEAKER: Before proceeding with the business I wish to call attention to an irregularity in the petition presented to the House last night, relating to the Bayswater-Busselton Railway. I had no opportunity of seeing the petition before it was received, and laid on the table, otherwise I would not have allowed it to be presented. On looking at it since, I observe that the whole of the signatures have been written on a separate sheet of paper, and attached afterwards to the petition, which is irregular, and quite contrary to the rules, and very rightly so, for if signatures are obtained on a separate sheet from the text of the petition, obviously the signatories have no opportunity of seeing what the petition contains, and in this way may give their signatures to a petition they know nothing about. If the same irregularity comes under my notice again, I shall refuse to allow such petitions to be received, and I trust any member who may be asked to present a petition will, in future, see that the signatures are regularly appended to it.

MR. PARKER: Sir, as it was I who presented this petition, I must plead guilty to the irregularity referred to. I believe the proper course is to have the petition and the signatures together on one form or roll, but the rule has never been insisted upon here. As your Honor, however, has now ruled that petitions violating this prescribed form are irregular, and that they should be in one continuous roll, instead of on separate sheets, I have no doubt that, in future,