

being sent here from other colonies, the local farmers needed some protection.

MR. LOTON said all were desirous that the cost of living should be cheap, and he thought it was cheap at present. The production of wheat was now so large, in the wheat-producing countries of the world, that each producing country had to protect itself. An extra duty would tend to check the influx of wheat and flour where there was an excess of production.

MR. RICHARDSON said the increase of 10s. a ton was not worth fighting about. In the Commission's recommendations there was a considerable set-off for those districts which did not produce flour, but the Government had altered the adjustment which the Commission endeavoured to make.

MR. CLARKSON moved that the committee do now divide.

Motion put and passed.

The committee accordingly divided on the amendment, with the following result:—

Ayes ...	...	...	10
Noes ...	...	...	15

Majority against ... 5

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Cookworthy	Mr. Clarkson
Mr. Darlôt	Sir John Forrest
Mr. Molloy	Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Quinlan	Mr. Hassell
Mr. Richardson	Mr. Lefroy
Mr. R. F. Sholl	Mr. Loton
Mr. H. W. Sholl	Mr. Monger
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Pearse
Mr. Solomon	Mr. Phillips
Mr. DeHamel (Teller).	Mr. Piesse
	Sir J. G. Lea Steere
	Mr. Throssell
	Mr. Traylen
	Mr. Venn
	Mr. Paterson (Teller).

Amendment negatived, and the item passed.

Item—Hay, per ton £1 10s.:—

MR. R. F. SHOLL moved, as an amendment, that the duty be reduced by 10s. He said that even the most greedy and uncompromising of agriculturists ought to be satisfied now with what they had got in this schedule, and should not ask for more.

The committee divided on the amendment, with the following result:—

Ayes ...	...	...	6
Noes ...	...	...	18

Majority against ... 12

AYES.
Mr. DeHamel
Mr. Molloy
Mr. Richardson
Mr. H. W. Sholl
Mr. Simpson
Mr. R. F. Sholl (Teller).

NOES.
Mr. Clarkson
Mr. Darlôt
Sir John Forrest
Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Hassell
Mr. Lefroy
Mr. Loton
Mr. Marmion
Mr. Paterson
Mr. Pearse
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Piesse
Mr. Quinlan
Mr. Solomon
Mr. Throssell
Mr. Traylen
Mr. Venn
Mr. Monger (Teller).

Amendment negatived, and item passed.

New item:

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest), in accordance with His Excellency's Message, moved that the item "Hides (green), per hide 1s. 6d.," be inserted after the item "Hay."

Motion put and passed, and the item inserted accordingly.

Progress reported, and leave given to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 1-19 o'clock a.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 21st September, 1893.

Aborigines Protection Board: Proposed abolition of—
Fremantle Water Supply Bill: third reading—Loan
Bill, 1893: third reading—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4-30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD— PROPOSED ABOLITION OF.

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Hon. D. K. CONGDON, "That the Council concurs in the resolution agreed to by the Legislative Assembly, respecting the abolition of the Aborigines Protection Board."

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I feel, sir, a certain amount of difficulty in meeting the resolution that has been put forward by my hon. friend Mr. Congdon, because it complains of nothing. It does not complain, for instance, of the conduct of the Board in administering the sums placed at their disposal, nor does it complain of anything else. It is simply a resolution that we in this House and those of the other House dislike the Board, and shall be glad to have the stipulation in the Constitution Act not insisted upon by the Mother Country. The money which is placed at the disposal of the Native Board is a continuation of the system inaugurated as far back as 1886—before our present system of Government was introduced. The Board consisted of a president and five members appointed by the Governor, so that in reality this motion is intended to abolish the control of the Governor as well as that of the other members of the Board. The Act of 52 Vic. continued this Board, and gave the Governor the power to disburse, for the comfort and preservation of the natives, a sum of £5,000 annually. The Board reports to the Governor and is responsible to him. No allegation has been made that the Board has been neglectful of its duties, but in effect the resolution simply states that the granting of £5,000 a year to be disbursed by the Board is not in accordance with the likes and dislikes of the House. We must bear in mind that the Board has not undertaken a light duty. It has undertaken to look after the welfare of the natives, and to relieve the sick and indigent among them from Eucla to Wyndham. In their work they are assisted by the magistrates and police, and no complaints have been made by either of these bodies on account of the work they do. It is true no assistance has been received by the Government. The *personnel* of the Government have done nothing, except that when they could they have had a rap at the Board, or, in other words, have insulted it. However, that does not matter; if it is their way, let them do it. There is not a single charge of misapplication of funds made by any person, except, perhaps, casually by gentlemen in what is called the heat of debate. We must bear in mind that the establishment of this Board is part of a

compact made with the Home Government, not merely by the gentlemen who negotiated the business, but by the House itself. I say again there has been no complaint as to the conduct of the Board, and I do not see what there is to answer. We made a compact that we would pay £5,000 a year for the benefit of natives, that being the price we had to pay for obtaining what is termed the boon of Responsible Government, and it is now rather unworthy of us to try to relieve ourselves of a burden we willingly incurred. I think I am right in saying there is no charge made, or intended to be made, against the Board.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: Certainly not.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: If there is no fault to remedy why should this £5,000 a year be taken away from the Queen and placed at the disposal of the Government?

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I did not say there was no fault to remedy. I say there is no charge made.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: Then so much the better for us. I think under the circumstances we can well leave the matter to be disposed of by the Governor and the Secretary of State.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY: It appears to me that the agitation which has arisen in another place on this subject is what may be called a storm in a teacup. The gentlemen who have interested themselves in the matter, as far as I can see, know nothing about it. The impression has got abroad that the Board has £5,000 a year to spend and has nothing to do but simply dole the money out without taking any care or trouble about it. I am in a position to know that that is not the case. The Board does more work than any other Board in the colony, and is composed of some of our most conscientious men. For some time after the Board was constituted I had the honour of being its Chairman, and time after time we spent from two to two-and-a-half hours at a sitting and had real hard work to do. We had correspondence from the Police and the Magistrates to deal with, and other matters to attend to, and not a single instance is recorded of any legitimate request being refused. In some few cases it appeared to the Board that natives were not entitled to relief, they

being employed by settlers, and these were the only cases where assistance was refused. If hon. members will only take the trouble to look at the accounts and the Board minutes, they will find that a great deal of useful work has been done. The Governor controls the Board; nothing is done without his sanction. During my time the minutes, after being confirmed, were sent to the Governor, who perused them and initialled them; and we may take it, therefore, that if His Excellency had anything to complain of he would have communicated with the Board at once. Most of the business, of course, is done by the Chairman and the Secretary. At each meeting the accounts are checked and initialled, and at some time I have no doubt they will be audited. When that time does come I feel sure that Mr. Leake and his colleagues will not be afraid of it. As to the action of the Government, I cannot go so far as the Hon. Mr. Leake. When I was connected with the Board, we found the Government ever ready to assist in every possible way. They allowed the police and Resident Magistrates to make inquiries and do all they could to assist us. In bringing forward this resolution I feel satisfied that members of another place had no intention to cast any aspersions on the Board, but when it is said that no good work is done, it is a complete mistake.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: Hon. members, who were members of the old Council, will remember this was one of the bargains when the Constitution Act was under consideration made between the colony and the Home Government, although it was literally drawn from us. I had the honour of being a member, and I felt when the clause of the Constitution Act relating to it was under consideration, that we were being asked to give way to a fad of the Home Government. We were told that it was better to fall in with it than jeopardise the Bill. The clause says that there shall be payable to Her Majesty the sum of £5,000 every year to be appropriated to the welfare of the aboriginal natives, and expended in providing them with food and clothing when they would otherwise be destitute, and in promoting the education of aboriginal children, and in preserving their welfare. Having agreed to this I

do not think we, who are the recipients of the benefits we asked for, should be the first to try and break the bargain. I think, perhaps, we might draw the attention of the Home Government to it in a reasonable way, and ask them whether it is advisable they should continue it. I never did think it was a good thing, but I can be no party to breaking an agreement which was fairly entered into. By this time the whole of the correspondence on the subject has no doubt reached England, and perhaps the Home Government will take the initiative, which I think they should do. I should be sorry to think that the members who formed the Board do not do the best they can. I feel satisfied that they are exercising an intelligent management and are doing the best they can, but as the natives are scattered over a large area, the larger part of them being in the North, we cannot expect the Board to be a success, and we cannot blame them if it is not. They have a representative at the North and are doing the very best they can. From all I have read on the subject there is no fault-finding with the Board, but the wish is that we shall save this £5,000 a year; but we must remember that we agreed to this imposition, or this payment, and I take it that hon. members will not be parties to breaking an agreement we were forced to enter into to obtain that which we coveted, namely, our present Constitution Act.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I might explain that if the Board does not expend the £5,000 the Government will have to.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: I consider that this Board is one which should not be continued for any length of time, and I may perhaps be permitted to give my reasons. One is that some years ago, when in Fiji, I saw the difficulty of there being two kings in Brentford. The natives had given over their country to English rule, and Sir Arthur Gordon was appointed the first Governor. He ruled the natives well, and had an excellent knowledge of the different regulations necessary to enable him to carry on the Government. In time he was promoted to New Zealand, and had to leave, and Sir William Des Vœux was appointed Governor in his stead; but notwithstanding this the Home Govern-

ment thought it advisable to allow Sir Arthur Gordon to continue to have a voice as regards the supervision of the natives of Fiji. It was found, however, impossible to carry on in this way, that is in having the Governor of Fiji subservient to the Governor of New Zealand on the question of native management. Still, it took time for the Home Government to see this; but they eventually did, and then did away with it. In the same way, it will take time for them to see that this Board is not a good thing, and they will then alter it, and eventually the Government here will have full control over the natives. Therefore, though not supporting the motion for a dissolution of the Board, I hope to see the Home Government take the initiative in handing over the full control of the natives to the Government of the colony. In another place it was said that the existence of the Board was a slur and a disgrace to the colony. I do not look upon it in that way, but at the same time I hope that at no distant date we shall see it swept away, and the natives handed over to the care of the Ministry.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: In Fiji there appears to have been government of the natives required, but here we have nothing of the sort. We have only to look after their well-being and comfort.

THE HON. G. RANDELL: I shall support the motion of the Hon. Mr. Congdon. When the Constitution Bill was under consideration there was such repugnance on the part of members that it was with the greatest difficulty that the clause relating to this native question was passed, and it was only because it was thought the Bill would otherwise be jeopardised that it was agreed to. Now that we have the Constitution it seems to me that the anomalies under it, of which this is one, should be swept away at the earliest possible moment. We have in existence the Education Board, which has done good service for many years, but the members of it feel as strongly as others that they should now be relieved of their duties and that the Act should be administered by a Minister of the Crown. Some good and plausible reasons were put forward in another place in favour of the abolition of the Native Board, and the resolution was nearly unanimously carried. I know that many regard its

establishment as a want of confidence by the then Secretary of State in England in the people of this colony in regard to the management of the natives of this colony. When this resolution was under consideration in another place, reference was on several occasions made to individual members of the Board, but no charge, I think, was made against them. It was considered that it was a body which kept its secrets very well, and did not make public its methods of administration or the mode of expenditure of its funds. Under our present form of Government, this is, perhaps, a somewhat serious charge to make. Although the greatest publicity should be given, I do not think there has been any intention to insinuate that the Board has not done its duty. The Hon. Mr. Morrison says it is a bargain we have made, and that it is better we should wait until Downing Street moves in the matter, but if we follow that course I am afraid we shall have to wait for a great many years before anything is done. I have no doubt that the former Secretary of State for the Colonies thought, when insisting on this clause, that he was acting in harmony with public opinion in England. We know that at that time there was a tendency in England to believe that the white people were oppressing the native population. Whether that opinion was founded on fact or not does not matter, for it was the reason that led to this clause being insisted upon. Having now Responsible Government, I think we should in every instance, where we think we have been deprived of our privileges, take the earliest opportunity of seeking to maintain them. As long as this Board exists I consider it will be a reflection on the community and on the wisdom of the Government of the country. Some remarks have been made as to the powerlessness of the Board to enforce its decrees, and this shows that sooner or later the whole thing must devolve back upon the Government of the country. As to waiting until the Home Government move in the matter, I feel certain that no steps will be taken unless we take the initiative.

THE HON. H. ANSTEY: I quite agree with former speakers as to the anomalous position we are placed in, but seeing that the Legislature of this colony made a

compact with the Home Government for the purpose of securing a change of Constitution, it is not right that we should take the initiative to break it. The resolution is that the Native Board shall be abolished, and it seems to me that this rather smacks of repudiation of our agreement. I think if strong representations were made to the Home Government, that this colony desires the abolition of the Board, and if sufficient pressure were brought to bear, the Home Government would yield to our wishes, and take steps in the direction we desire.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: The Hon. Mr. Randell has said that it would probably take years for the Home Government to move unless we take some action. As against that, I might refer to the Secretary of State's despatch, in which he himself regards the section of the Act under which the Board is appointed as one of a temporary character. He says: "I cannot hold out any hope that this Government, for some time, at all events, would find themselves in a position to advise Her Majesty to assent to any Bill passed in the colony and affecting that part of the law."

THE HON. G. RANDELL: Will the hon. member explain how that despatch came here? I presume it was in consequence of representations made by the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): It will be observed that the resolution which this House is asked to assent to is not one brought forward by the Government, and consequently when it came to this House I did not take charge of it, but my hon. friend Mr. Congdon did. I regret that when this matter was brought forward in another place certain reflections were cast on the Board, which I think were wholly undeserved. As far as I know (and perhaps by virtue of my official position I have as good an opportunity of knowing what has been done as most persons) it seems to me the Board has done all in its power to promote the objects for which it has been constituted. It must be borne in mind that under the Constitution Act the sum of £5,000 is to be spent annually on the natives in providing them with food and clothing when they would otherwise be destitute, in promoting the education of aboriginal children (including half-

castes), and in assisting generally to promote the preservation and well-being of the aborigines. I believe the Board fully performs these functions. We know they do supply food and clothing, and promote to the best of their powers the education of the natives. We know they subsidise all the native institutions, and I believe that they do their best generally to promote the preservation and well-being of the aborigines. Some twelve months ago the Board appointed an Inspector—a gentleman well qualified to deal with the natives—who travels about the North, looks after their welfare, and sees that they are not oppressed by their employers. We know there are many difficulties in educating them, and that it is only children that can be dealt with in this respect. As far as the older natives are concerned, all the Board can do is to see that they are fed, and see that they are not oppressed or treated with cruelty. As far as clothing is concerned, if such is given to the natives of the North, they only part with it.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: No, no.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY: They lie down beside a fire and burn it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I am glad to hear they have such respect for decency. No doubt we hear very little of the doings of this Board, but we must remember that when a native receives a suit of clothes he does not usually write to the paper to say that the Board has been so kind as to give it to him. There are, perhaps, many other reasons why we hear so little of the Board, one of them, no doubt, being that the natives are so well and kindly treated that there is very little to be said, and the greatest tribute that can be paid to the Board is to say that its work is done so quietly, and that everything goes on so harmoniously, that we hear nothing of their actions. When the old Legislative Council was in existence I remember full well how difficult it was to obtain the assent of members to section 70 of the Constitution Act, and I know it was only agreed to because it was put to us that unless we gave way we should not get our Constitution; and I have not the slightest doubt that the fact of the Act containing that clause greatly facilitated its passage through the House of Commons. When I was at Home before the select committee,

some members made the most anxious inquiries about the natives of this colony. They asked about their reserves and generally about their well-being, and one member went so far as to ask how it was no provision was made for aboriginals voting at elections; and he seemed indignant because there was none. Hon. members will thus see that the presence of this clause in the Bill did facilitate its passage through the Imperial Parliament. But I think with the Hon. Mr. Randell, that unless we move in the matter ourselves, there is very little chance of the Imperial Parliament taking any steps to disestablish the Board. If we remain here until they move, we would have to be elected, as the Hon. Mr. Morrison would have us, for the term of our natural lives, and even then we should probably see nothing done. In my opinion it is for the colony to move. If we show that we are quite capable of managing the natives, and show that we will not treat them cruelly but look after them as human beings should be looked after, it may be that the Home Government will accede to the proposals of Parliament and allow us to look after them ourselves. There is no doubt the existence of the Board does cause annoyance to many persons, and there can be no question that it is a reflection on the Government and the people of this colony that the management of the natives should be taken out of their hands and vested solely in the Governor. I say the Governor because he appoints the Board without consulting his Ministerial advisers, and it is a matter of irritation to the Government and people of this colony that the Imperial Government should have insisted on these terms, and to my mind a slur is cast upon the colonists generally by the mere fact of this Board existing. I believe West Australians will always treat the natives well; and in taking the course I intend to upon this motion I trust my hon. friend Mr. Leake, who is Chairman of the Board, will remember that I cast no reflection on him or his colleagues, believing as I do that they have done all in their power to carry out the objects for which they were appointed. I do say, however, that so long as the Board exists, it will cause irritation. There is no necessity for it, for the Government can look after the natives as well, if not better, than the

Board, for they have far greater facilities for doing it. I therefore feel bound to support the motion of the Hon. Mr. Congdon, and I trust this House will concur in it.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: In rising to propose this motion I did so without the slightest intention of reflecting on the Board or any member of it. I have no fault to find with them, and I have not the slightest intention of insinuating that they have not done all they could do. I do not object, as the Hon. Mr. Morrison seems to imply, to £5,000 a year being spent on the natives. Quite the reverse. The objection I have is that this Board comes between the aboriginal population and the Government, and that the natives would be better looked after if the Board were not in existence. We only agreed to it, in the first instance, because it was intimated to us that if we did not the Constitution Bill would be jeopardised. I believe the Board is useless and unnecessary, and I am borne out in that by a statement in the Administrator's despatch of 27th May, 1892. He says:—"The fifth paragraph of Sir John's memorandum is well worthy of consideration as disclosing the radical weakness of the constitution of the Board. By the several enactments to which I have referred the existence of the Board is ensured, and a large sum of money is secured to be expended in the interest of the natives. Nothing more has been done by the Legislature, and no machinery has been provided to enable the Board to carry out its duties. If left to its own resources the Board would find itself in the position of those bodies who had to alleviate the sufferings of the Irish people during the great famine—"they were well provided with supplies, but had no means of conveying them to the doors of the sufferers." The same, undoubtedly, would be the position of this Board without the help of the local Government. As Sir John Forrest points out, it is to a great extent, if not altogether, dependent upon the several Resident Magistrates and the police, both for the purpose of obtaining information with regard to, and of conveying the means of relief to, suffering or indigent natives. In some cases no doubt information is voluntarily given to the Board by private persons; but even the assist-

"ance of a Resident Magistrate or of the police is frequently invoked by the Board for the purpose of greater security. This assistance has always been given promptly, in the most ungrudging manner, and gratuitously; indeed, if the Board had to pay for the machinery by which its work is effected, but little money would remain for the purposes of the work itself." Again he says:—"However, as I have already pointed out, the Board is to a very large extent dependent upon the Government of the day for its power of doing good, and if unfortunately that Government should be actuated by feelings of hostility against the aboriginal population, and declined to render such assistance to the Board as I have shown to be absolutely essential to the performance of its duties, undoubtedly a deadlock would ensue, and much suffering might arise amongst the indigent aborigines." I hope hon. members will not think I am actuated by any desire to reflect on the Board, but I say it never ought to have been brought into existence. If we do not move in the matter ourselves, we shall wait a long time before anything is done, and therefore I hope hon. members will accord me their support and concur with the message that has been sent down to us from the Lower House.

Question—That the resolution be agreed to—put.

The Council divided.

Ayes ...	...	...	6
Noes ...	...	...	5

Majority for ... 1

AYES.	NOES.
The Hon. G. Glyde	The Hon. J. G. H. Amherst
The Hon. E. Hamersley	The Hon. H. Anstey
The Hon. R. W. Hardey	The Hon. G. W. Leake
The Hon. S. H. Parker	The Hon. J. Morrison
The Hon. G. Randell	The Hon. E. T. Hooley
The Hon. D. K. Congdon (Teller.)	(Teller.)

Question put and passed.

FREMANTLE WATER SUPPLY BILL.

THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and passed.

LOAN BILL, 1893.

THIRD READING.

This Bill was read a third time, and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 5:30 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Monday, 25th September, at 8 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 21st September, 1893.

Homesteads Bill: further considered in committee—
Tariff Bill: further considered in committee—
Message from the Legislative Council: proposed abolition of the Aborigines Protection Board—
Message from the Legislative Council: agreeing to Fremantle Water Works Bill and Loan Bill—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

HOMESTEADS BILL.

IN COMMITTEE.

New clauses:

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest), without comment, moved that the following new clause proposed to stand part of the Bill, viz:—"Clause 46 of the Land Regulations is hereby repealed, and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:—

"(1.) Every agricultural area shall be gazetted in the *Government Gazette*, and with the exception of those portions applied for and held under Clause 49 as amended by this Act, and under Clauses 54 and 55 of the Land Regulations, shall be disposed of under the following conditions:—

"(a.) The price of land shall be fixed by the Governor in Council, but shall not be less than ten shillings an acre, payable in twenty yearly instalments or sooner, as prescribed by these Regulations.

"(b.) No person under the age of eighteen years shall be eligible to obtain a license to occupy land.