

the approximate expenditure ought to be, and, having done so, express their readiness to vote the amount next year. He himself was not in favor of the money coming out of loan; he objected to it from the first. He did not regard it as a reproductive work, like a jetty or railway, and he thought we should make an earnest effort to provide the funds out of current revenue,—say £12,000 more, which would be £2,000 of what the Director of Public Works thought would be required.

MR. SHENTON thought it was acknowledged on all hands that the present General Post Office building was a disgrace to the colony, and he thought the sooner that funds were placed at the disposal of the Government to provide another one, more suitable to our requirements and the growing business of the department, the more it would be to our credit. He thought all that was necessary at present was an expression of opinion on the part of the House that the work should be proceeded with, and that whatever extra money was required the House would be prepared to vote it. At the same time, he thought a limit ought to be placed upon the amount.

MR. PARKER moved, as an amendment, that the following words be added to the resolution: "Provided that the whole expenditure on the building does not exceed £22,000." As they had already appropriated £10,000 for the work, this would place an additional £12,000 at the disposal of the Director of Public Works.

The amendment was adopted, and the resolution in its amended form put and passed.

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

MR. PARKER said that Mr. Maitland Brown having ceased to be a member of the House he had also ceased to be a member of the Law and Parliamentary Library Committee. He therefore had pleasure in moving that the hon. member Mr. Marmion be appointed to fill the vacancy.

MR. SHENTON seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL: ELECTION OF A GOVERNOR.

MR. PARKER said he regretted to state that the hon. and learned member, Mr. Burt, had resigned his seat as a governor of the High School, and it therefore became necessary for the House to appoint a successor. It was not incumbent upon them to elect a gentleman occupying a seat in that House, but he had diligently inquired whether any hon. member would desire to accept the position, and it appeared not. But there was a gentleman whose name he had much pleasure in submitting for the approval of the House, a gentleman who took a great interest in the cause of the higher education of our youthful community, and who was himself a gentleman of culture and University training, and altogether well fitted for the post. He had much pleasure in moving that Mr. John Charles Horsey James be appointed a governor of the High School.

The motion was agreed to, *nem. con.*

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 1st September, 1886.

Longitude of Fremantle—Wines, Beer, and Spirits Sale Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: third reading—Kimberley Districts General Sessions Bill: third reading—Supreme Court Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: third reading—Federal Council Reference Bill: third reading—Swan River Mechanics Institute Mortgage Bill: third reading—Appropriation Bill, 1887: third reading—Barristers Admission Bill: third reading—Aborigines Protection Bill: third reading—Libellous statements published by the Rev. J. B. Gribble—Revised Loan Estimates, 1886: in committee—Amendment of Building Act—Railway to Hampton Plains—Conduct of business during the Session—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

LONGITUDE OF FREMANTLE.

Mr. MARMION, in accordance with notice, asked the Surveyor General, whether the longitude of Fremantle had ever been correctly taken; and, if so, by what means? He might mention that the question had been handed to him by a gentleman who was interested in the adjustment of chronometers and also of the railway time (Mr. Wheeler), who considered it one of some importance.

THE SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. J. Forrest) said he had much pleasure in giving what information he possessed on the subject; but he must say that for all practical purposes such as those referred to by the hon. member, such as finding the correct time, a knowledge of the exact longitude was not very important. When the hon. member put his question on the notice paper, he did not know what the hon. member's object was. His answer, which was rather a long one, was this: "The longitude of South Jetty, on the South Beach at Fremantle, was determined by Captains Wickham and Stokes, of the Royal Navy, in H.M.S. 'Beagle,' more than forty years ago.

"2. The method adopted was by chronometric comparisons with Sydney, and a large number of chronometers were used.

"3. The longitude obtained has been accepted to the present time, and as the officers of the Admiralty Survey have not had such good means of determining the difference of time between Fremantle and Sydney as was possessed by Captains Wickham and Stokes, they have based the longitudes of their surveys on this coast on the longitude given of South Jetty.

"4. Some slight alteration has lately been made, I believe, in the longitude of Sydney Observatory; but our longitude has not, as yet, been altered.

"5. It is my intention, as soon as means can be provided for erecting a small transit instrument and a good clock fitted with a chronograph, to determine the difference of time between Perth and Adelaide; and with this object I have already communicated with Mr. Todd, the Government Astronomer of South Australia, who has promised to render every assistance in arranging and directing the work."

WINES, BEER, AND SPIRITS SALE ACT, 1880, AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

KIMBERLEY DISTRICTS GENERAL SESSIONS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

SUPREME COURT ACT, 1880, AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

FEDERAL COUNCIL REFERENCE BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

SWAN RIVER MECHANICS' INSTITUTE MORTGAGE BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1887.

Read a third time and passed.

BARRISTERS ADMISSION BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

LIBELLOUS STATEMENTS PUBLISHED BY THE REV. J. B. GRIBBLE.

Mr. CROWTHER, in accordance with notice, drew the attention of the House to certain defamatory statements made by the Rev. J. B. Gribble respecting the character of some members of the Legislative Council of this colony, as reported in the Melbourne *Daily Telegraph* of July 9th. The hon. member said if Mr. Gribble had contented himself with dealing in generalities, as he often had done, in bringing accusations against the people of this colony, he should not have invited the attention of the House to this matter,—he should have allowed the noble Gribble to stew in his own juice—and a dainty dish he would have made; but, when they found him descending to accuse members of that House of murder, he thought it was about time that somebody should interfere, and refute such villainous slander and to show the world that the Rev. J. B. Gribble is a man whose word is not at all to be relied upon. The article in the *Daily Telegraph* was headed "Slavery in Western Australia: Horrible Cruelties," and in it Mr. Gribble said that all the

good and earnest men in the colony were on his side—Gribble's side—"as you can see," he said, "by this pile of letters,"—among them being one which he said he had received from the Chief Justice, consoling with him and almost urging him to continue to carry on his malicious warfare against the settlers of the colony—a lie on the face of it, an act which a gentleman like the Chief Justice was incapable of; and he believed if the context of this letter were given it would be seen that it was rather against Mr. Gribble than for him. "There are men in the Council now"—meaning in that House—"who have been charged with murder," the Rev. J. B. Gribble said. Where were they? Where were the hon. members who had been charged with murder? He should like to see them. Let them come forward and defend themselves, these murderers. He looked in vain for them. Mr. Gribble said they were acquitted; consequently they must be still at large—where were they? If they were anywhere they were in the Rev. J. B. Gribble's own wicked imagination, they were the coinage of his own malicious brain. He had been told by many friends, and sincere friends, that he was making a mistake in stirring up this muddy water. His own opinion was that he was not making a mistake, and that it was high time for someone to expose this man. He gave the lie direct to Gribble, when he said that the Attorney General resigned for any action connected with Gribble. He gave the lie direct to the Rev. J. B. Gribble when he said there were members in that House who had been charged with murder and acquitted. "Such is the state of society that the Attorney General recently handed in his resignation pending an appeal to the Home authorities, and another—a favorite—was appointed in his place." So said the Rev. J. B. Gribble. That was part of the gospel according to St. Gribble. "My footsteps," he said, "have been dogged, and it has been said that I would never leave for the Eastern Colonies alive, to expose the cruelties practised; but the good and earnest men in the colony are on my side, as you can see by this pile of letters." A whole tissue of falsehoods. The tales told by this man were not fit for decent ears. They were told that at

his lectures in Melbourne and Sydney ladies were not admitted, while he recited his spicy tales about the atrocities committed by the people of Western Australia. The man had got into such a stream of filth that he could not get out of it, and ladies and children were excluded from his meetings. He had lost all semblance of truth. Urged on by nothing but a vindictive feeling towards those who had given him a cordial welcome to their homes and extended to him the right hand of fellowship, this man now never lost an occasion to malign them, and to tell the most atrocious lies about them—lies which, if there was any foundation for them, would hold up the people of Western Australia, and deservedly, to the execration of the civilised world. He would not read all the filth published in this newspaper article. Though not particularly straightlaced himself, he hoped he had still some little sense of modesty left, and he would not ask the House to listen to the horrible tales told of debauchery, of rapine, of murder, of cannibalism, of men whom he (Gribble) could "implicitly rely upon" telling him he had seen the bones of half-caste children "cleanly picked" by their own parents. These atrocities he would pass over; they might suit the columns of the *Daily Telegraph*, but he did not think that hon. members would care for such recitals. "I drew the attention of the Governor to the case," Gribble said—the case of a young black girl debauched by her employer, in Gribble's presence—"but the master is a typical settler, and a friend of the Governor's, and there was no notice taken of it." Could any man in his senses believe such horrible trash? Then he went on to talk about native protectors. "The elective members of the Government," he said, "are all interested in settlement and pearling, and it has been said that the Council are determined that nothing shall be done in the way of protection. I myself offered to act as protector, without fee or reward"—he doubted it very much, "without fee or reward." Having done with the members of the Legislature, the rev. gentleman found his way to Government House; and the Governor of the colony did not escape his malicious tongue. Having told the Governor of cases of debauchery which

he said he had witnessed, and urged for interference by the Governor, His Excellency said: "It is not for me to say who shall be a black girl's lover." When Gribble made that statement Gribble was a liar. He need not follow the man through all the tissue of falsehoods which this article contained, to show the House and to show the public how the Rev. J. B. Gribble—let him have his full title—the Reverend J. B. Gribble—give his satanic majesty himself his due—to show the public how the Rev. J. B. Gribble, in whose homes he had been hospitably treated, whose rough bush comforts he had been cordially invited to share—to show the public how the Rev. J. B. Gribble now traduced and maligned the settlers of Western Australia in the eyes of the world. That he should do so no longer without some protest, he asked the House to affirm the following resolution:—"That this Council notices with regret that the *Melbourne Daily Telegraph*, under date of July 9th, has allowed its columns to be made the vehicle for the dissemination of malicious libels made by Mr. Gribble, affecting the characters of members of this honorable Council, by publicly stating 'there are men in the Council now who have been charged with murder, and who have been acquitted.'

MR. RANDELL suggested that the wording of the resolution should be slightly altered. If that were done the hon. member would most likely have the support of the whole House in this matter; but it seemed to him that the way in which the resolution was worded reflected upon the newspaper rather than Mr. Gribble. If put in another form he should not have the slightest hesitation in supporting it.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he should just like to say a word at this stage. Yesterday he rose in his place to ask hon. members to pause, and reflect whether they ought to pass a resolution that had been brought before the House—not that he wished to oppose it in any way, but that he thought they ought to be careful before committing themselves to a resolution that had been brought before the House without notice. He thought he should now inform hon. members, with

reference to that resolution, that he had asked the Chief Justice about the paragraph referred to in a certain letter, and that His Honor informed him that he had never written to Mr. Gribble giving any opinion with reference to any cruelties or ill-treatment practised towards the aboriginals of this colony.

MR. PARKER said, as to the objection of Mr. Randell to the wording of the resolution, he could not help thinking if anyone was to blame it was the newspaper. He understood from what had fallen from the hon. member for the Greenough that it was not the report of a speech delivered by Mr. Gribble, but that some *attaché* of this newspaper had interviewed Mr. Gribble, and extracted these various sayings from him. For aught they knew, Mr. Gribble might not have known that they were going to be published, and they may have been given to the interviewer in confidence. At any rate, it appeared it was not the report of a speech but the result of an interview between a representative of the paper and Mr. Gribble. That being the case he could not help thinking that before publishing such atrocious statements, reflecting upon a whole community, a newspaper was bound to make some inquiries as to the probability of there being any truth in them; and he could not help thinking, if there was anyone to blame, the newspaper that published these statements was quite as much to blame as Mr. Gribble himself, who was the author of them. Really, after all, he could not help saying again that he thought they were making a great deal too much of Mr. Gribble and his newspaper. Were they to take upon themselves to contradict everything they saw in the newspapers reflecting upon the good name of the colony? It was useless for them to contradict isolated statements, merely because they reflected upon hon. members themselves, and leave all other statements, reflecting upon people outside, untouched. The members of that House were not the only persons maligned by Mr. Gribble. There were charges against the Governor, against the Executive, against the Bishop, against the clergy of all denominations, against the settlers of the colony, and against the whole community; and were they to select themselves

only, and say nothing in refutation of the rest? He could not help thinking that would be a mistake. He thought that if they went to the trouble of refuting anything that this Mr. Gribble said—if they thought it worth while refuting anything such a man said—they ought to refute the whole of his statements, they ought to defend the whole community from his defamatory slanders. After all, he did not think there was much in the charge made against some of the members of that House. Mr. Gribble simply said they had been charged with murder. Any man might be unfortunate enough to be charged with the most heinous offence, but the question was—was the charge proved, or was the man acquitted? Mr. Gribble, though charging members of that House with having been indicted for murder, was good enough to say that they were acquitted. The majority of members of that House were known to them all—they had been known from their infancy—and everybody knew that the charge was a false charge. Everybody knew—Mr. Gribble himself, he should imagine, must have known—there was not a word of truth in it. He really could not help thinking it would be wiser if the matter had never been brought before the House. It was beneath contempt. But, as it had been brought forward, the question was whether it would not be better now to have the motion put, for, if they were to negative it, it might be said that they were not prepared to refute this charge; and, under the circumstances, it might be as well to pass this resolution.

MR. GRANT said he rose with somewhat mixed feelings to speak upon this subject. Some hon. members it appeared to him were quite content to have this horrible incubus hanging over the colony, without going to the trouble of stirring a finger to remove it. He was quite at variance with the hon. member who had just sat down, that it was hardly worth while taking any notice of this matter. He thought it was the duty of that House to take action. He thought the House would be shirking its duty, and showing a very cowardly feeling, if it was going to stand by and see the colony traduced, from the highest official to the lowest, every man in the community

slandered in the eyes of the whole world, and charges of the grossest kind, including murder itself, brought against them. At the present moment, they were told, where this Gribble was lecturing, in Melbourne or Sydney, that the halls in which he held forth were crowded and admission actually had to be refused, simply because there was no more room; and the whole colony was held up to execration. He thought it was high time we put our backs up. He thought it was time the whole community should demand a thorough investigation, and he was surprised and pained to find any hon. member offering any opposition to this motion. One hon. member, because he himself happened to be a little misrepresented the other evening, about a paltry vote for the Government Garden, put up his back at once, and made a great point of it. But when it came to the whole colony being misrepresented, and the whole community insulted and degraded before the whole world, the hon. member thought it would be better to leave it alone—let it slide—let the whole thing go unchallenged, and let us virtually acknowledge that the colony was all that Gribble represented it to be. He did not hold with the hon. member, nor with the hon. member who was the leader of that side of the House, who seemed to think that they were making too much of this Gribble affair. He did not think they were making too much of it at all. He thought it ought to have been denounced long ago, and that a resolution of that House should have been passed long ago, pointing out to the world that certain statements made by this man Gribble were known to be lies, and that the whole of this two-column article in this Melbourne paper was one continuous tale, bristling with falsehood. He knew to his own knowledge it was a lie. But it answered Gribble's purposes just as well as if it was the truth. It drew crowds to his lectures, and it brought him a certain amount of notoriety, without which the man could not live. Some of the stories he told of the settlers of the colony were monstrous stories, whose only foundation was to be found in the man's own black imagination. The Chief Justice, he was glad to hear—for he had been sure it was not true what Gribble had

said about the Chief Justice having written that letter about the treatment of the natives—the Chief Justice denied it. That was one lie, then, right off. There was just as much truth in the man's other statements; and, as for the matter not being worthy of notice, and that too much was being made of Gribble and all his works, he thought that too little had been made of the matter. He thought they ought to have taken the bull by the horns long ago. He thought they ought to have exposed the man long ago, and that they should have insisted upon a commission of inquiry being appointed either by this Government or the Imperial Government, and challenged the whole world. He had no doubt in his own mind that if such an inquiry should be made, Western Australia would come out of it purer and with cleaner hands as regards this native question than any other part of the world. He had been in various parts of Australia during the past thirty-five years, and seen how the natives were treated. He was in Queensland in the early days of its settlement, and the stories he could tell about what he saw there were something after the style of Gribble's stories about this colony, with this difference, that the latter were false, while the former would have been true. Comparing the treatment which the natives received in this colony with the treatment which the natives had received in some other countries, Western Australia was a land of sunshine for the aboriginal native, a land where he was fed and clothed, and, in sickness, often nursed and tended by the settlers as a member of their own family. Was it any wonder then that the indignation of these settlers should be aroused by the slanderous stories told by this man Gribble about them? Were they to stand by and listen patiently to these tales of horror, these awful stories of rapine, and murder, and lust, and debauchery, brought against them by Gribble? He said, shame upon those hon. members who opposed this resolution—shame upon them. He had no feeling for them. They did not belong to Western Australia. They were unworthy of it. They were false colonists, who had no sympathy with the struggles and the hardships of the pioneer settlers of our

Northern territory. He could not go on much further. Really it was something astonishing to him, and it pained him to think that there should be men in that House who could have the hardihood to propose that this resolution should be allowed to drop, and that no notice should be taken of all these lies. It was enough to cause the people of the North to say and feel that they had no kindred with such members. They must know all that the Northern people had done for these natives, how kindly they had treated them, and they must know that what this man Gribble had said about them was false, and that these atrocities spoken of were nothing but one d——d lie.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member must not make use of those words.

MR. GRANT: I feel strongly on this subject.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member must not make use of unparliamentary language.

MR. GRANT: Well, sir, I beg pardon; I retract. But I don't know where there is a better word, or one that is more applicable.

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member must not use it here.

MR. GRANT: Well, sir, I suppose I musn't. I will speak to the parson about it. As to the resolution now before the House I shall watch it with great interest, and I hope that there will be some fellow-feeling and sympathy shown for us Northerners, who have been brought down by this man Gribble to the level of the most atrocious scoundrels in the world. I shall look upon this matter in this way: I shall feel that unless this resolution is carried without dissent that people will think there is some doubt about the matter. I will say nothing more on the subject. But it does seem strange that when one individual member gets a scratch he bristles up at once, and becomes very anxious to have any wrong statement rectified in the newspapers; but when it is something against the whole population of the colony, and particularly the population of the Northern districts of the colony—when our settlers are insulted and degraded in the eyes of all the other colonies and of the whole world, we are to sit still, without even saying "No" to any slanderous asser-

tions made against us by a man like Gribble.

MR. SHOLL could not help thinking it would be a mistake and a pity if this resolution were not put and carried. He thought if a little more fuss had been made in the other colonies before this devil inside a parson's coat ever came to this colony, they should not that evening have occasion to pass such a resolution; for, it appeared he had been carrying on the same game upon the people of New South Wales before he ever came here. So that he could not help thinking if a little more notice had been taken of his doings before now, we should probably never had to deplore his presence amongst us. Perhaps the people in New South Wales considered he was beneath their notice, but he thought that if a resolution had been passed similar to that which they were asked to pass tonight their eyes would have been opened. With reference to the statements made concerning the settlers and the members of the Legislative Council, and in fact everyone else in the colony, of course they were well known here to be false, and probably they were beginning to find out in the other colonies they were false. If not, they soon would. With regard to his lectures being crowded, one could quite understand that. The greater the filth the greater the crowd; and so long as he continued to preach or lecture about such filth as he had been lecturing about in the other colonies, so long would he draw a crowd of a certain class. It was a pity and it was a disgrace, he considered, to the Church, that such a man was allowed to have the word "Reverend" placed before his name, because so long as he had that prefix to his name it carried some weight, and his statements were more likely to deceive people. Good-intentioned people were more likely to take more notice of what he said than if he were plain J. B. Gribble, from Western Australia. With reference to what the hon. member for the North had said about the hon. member opposite (Mr. Randell) he thought he was rather hard upon him. He did not think the hon. member opposite intended in any way to detract from the strength or force of the resolution as regards Mr. Gribble; he simply objected to the wording of it.

MR. RANDELL hoped the hon. member was not laboring under the impression that he was opposing the motion. He certainly had said nothing to induce him to believe so.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL was sorry to think that the hon. member for the North should imagine for a moment that there was any member in the House who was not in sympathy with the Northern settlers as regards these aspersions upon their character, or who was not prepared to admit that they were as fine a body of men as ever attempted to settle any colony. Of course there were some exceptions, as in every other community, but the settlers of the North as a body were as fine a lot of fellows as anyone would wish to see, and they all felt a pride in them, and were filled with intense indignation at the way they had been treated and traduced. He presumed what the hon. member for Perth meant by treating the matter with contempt, was contempt at having to deal with such a man as this Mr. Gribble. It was almost degrading to having anything to do with such a man, but the worst of it was he had been able to do a great deal of mischief and to exercise a great deal of influence somehow or other—through the folly of the Church, he was afraid, for one thing. Bishop Barry took him up at Sydney, and he went about lecturing, and no end of fuss was made about him; and it was simply disgusting to see the way in which his sayings and doings were chronicled. In Victoria they seemed to be a far more sensible people than in Sydney as regards the man and his sayings; and both the leading papers, the *Argus* and the *Age*, ridiculed him from beginning to end—the *Argus* especially, in a very effective manner. But in New South Wales he was taken up at first very much by the Church, and the Board of Missions, until they were afterwards informed that he was not to be depended upon. But even now he appeared to be under the protection of the Aborigines Society; and one of the leading papers, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, had devoted several articles to him, in which, he was sorry to say, they seemed rather inclined to believe what he had said; and he was now pursuing his way in New South Wales, and all his sayings were reported. He thought it

was time it should be stopped, and the reason he had risen was to appeal to the Government, seeing that the public journals of the other colonies were being flooded with this abominable twaddle, whether it might not be desirable they should officially intimate to the Governments of those colonies the character of the man and of his statements. It seemed to him that if the Government were to do this it might be the most effectual means of checking his course.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said that so far as the resolution before the House went he saw no reason whatever why it should not be approved. After all, they simply said the House regretted that a certain newspaper had, without making due inquiry, published certain statements of a libellous and mendacious nature. If those statements were made to the editor of this paper by that indiscreet divine who was recently amongst us like a wolf in sheep's clothing, it was certainly very much to be regretted, for no doubt they were of a very mendacious and scandalous nature; and if that House were in a position to take any definite action against the rev. gentleman there might be some grounds for moving in this matter. But it appeared to him that it was hardly dignified for that House to give expression simply to a feeling of indignation or ire. He was afraid—there was very little doubt in his mind—that the rev. gentleman and his supporters would be rather pleased than otherwise to find that they were the object of so much attention, and that they had excited the wrath of the members of that House, when nothing further was likely to come out of it. Time, no doubt, would dispose of this rev. gentleman and expose him in his true colors; and he thought it would almost be better to leave him severely alone, and—to use a common expression—give him plenty of rope, and in course of time he would certainly hang himself. When that event occurred, he sincerely trusted that those in the colony who had supported him in any measure would feel ashamed, and regret that they had in any way conspired with this bird of ill omen in fouling their own nest.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he had

not intended speaking on this subject, but it had occurred to him that in the position he occupied in that House, and having had (he might say without any egotism) considerable experience of the ways of the settlers and of the natives of this colony—he had felt during the last half hour that he ought not to remain silent on an occasion of this sort, and that he should say something with reference to the reports that had found their way into the newspapers of the other colonies, with reference to the treatment of the aboriginal natives in Western Australia. He might say that, at first, when Mr. Gribble had differences with the people of the Gascoyne, his sympathies were to a great extent with him, because he thought he had not been treated very well, and that they had resorted to measures which he (Mr. Forrest) did not approve of. But as time had gone on, he had altered his opinion, and he thought that nothing could justify the actions of Mr. Gribble since he left this colony, especially in traducing the people of the colony in the way he had traduced them. They all knew this native question was a very difficult one, and, in that respect, it was not different in this colony from what it was in other parts of Australia. They all knew it was a very difficult thing to know what was best to be done with these aboriginal natives. Our first introduction to them was as the pioneers of settlement in a new country. We went amongst them with our sheep and our cattle, and we found them in an altogether uncivilised state, and hostile, and we had to defend our lives and property, not by the strong arm of the law, but by force. That occurred on every station on the outskirts of civilisation in these colonies. After a while they became civilised, they became of service to the pioneer settlers; and, when we remembered that these settlers themselves were necessarily living in a very rough way, we could not expect that the natives who came in contact with them, or who entered their service, should live in a better way than these pioneers themselves as regards the comforts of life. They became useful servants to them in time, and they were treated as such, and treated, on the whole, kindly. This reverend gentleman when he went to the

Gascoyne went to a place which, though not altogether uncivilised, was still a pioneer settlement; and he must be a very foolish man if he expected to find the aboriginal natives there all dressed in European clothing and altogether civilised. What the reverend gentleman should have done—he did not pretend to know much about the duties of a missionary, but he thought that what the reverend gentleman should have done was to have exerted himself and endeavored by the force of his own example to elevate the condition of these natives, and to put things right. Instead of that, he seemed to have taken up a position of uncompromising hostility towards the settlers of the district; and, now, not only did he slander and traduce the settlers of that part of the colony, but the whole colony, portions of which he never visited at all, and of which he must be altogether ignorant. He had been in many parts of Australia himself, and seen how the natives were treated in Victoria and in the northern parts of South Australia, and he could see no difference between the treatment of the aborigines there and the treatment they received in this colony. And, although he was not one who could say that in every case the natives had been well treated, he thought it must be a matter of satisfaction and a great treat to any one from these southern parts of the colony who happened to visit our northern parts to see all the natives engaged in active labor. It must strike anyone the way in which native labor had been utilised in these Northern districts of the colony. It was altogether an unknown thing in the settled portions of those districts to find a native without a master; and, so far as he had seen, they had no desire to leave their employer's service, even when their masters did not always behave very well towards them,—for some masters were better than others; and he had been surprised to observe the attachment of these natives to their masters, an attachment which the master perhaps sometimes did not altogether deserve. While he thought that perhaps we might and ought to have done more for the native race than we had done, in the way of ameliorating their condition—and he believed the Aborigines Protection Bill passed this session would go a great way

in that direction—still, taking everything into consideration, he believed the natives of this colony were—well, he would say better treated than the aboriginal natives were in any other part of Australia. He was speaking to a lady only the other day, who had been in the colony for the last forty years, residing in the Southern districts, and she told him that throughout the whole of that time she had never seen a white man lift a hand to ill-treat a native. He thought that was a great deal to say; and he was inclined to think that taking the colony throughout there was not any cruelty exercised towards the natives by the settlers. There might be some exceptional cases, but, on the whole, he believed the natives here were quite as well—he would go so far as to say they were better—treated than in any other colony that he knew of. It was not for him to say what the duties of Mr. Gribble or any other missionary were, but he thought that the duty of any Christian man was to endeavor to improve the condition of those among whom he was called to labor, rather than sow dissension and ill-feeling, and disseminate slander and untruths. Even if these terrible cruelties had any existence that this reverend gentleman had published—which he denied—he should have thought that his duty should have been to endeavor to correct any evils brought under his notice, rather than seek to traduce the character of a whole community—a community which he thought were as well disposed towards the aborigines as were any other people in the colony or out of it. He felt he could not listen to such scandalous charges without saying that in his opinion they were altogether untrue.

The resolution was then put and adopted unanimously.

REVISED LOAN ESTIMATES, 1886.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright), with leave, without notice, moved that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider the revised Loan Estimates for 1886.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. PARKER: Has not all this money been voted already?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Most of it. Some engineers have been appointed since, and their salaries have to be provided.

The various items were agreed to, without discussion.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES reported to the House that the committee had considered the Revised Loan Estimates for 1886, and had passed resolutions granting sums amounting to £253,416 13s. 10d.

Report adopted.

AMENDMENT OF THE BUILDING ACT.

MR. RANDELL said he rose to move a resolution, without notice, but he hoped with leave. It had reference to the scope of the Building Act, and was as follows: "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased, during the recess, to cause inquiries to be made with the view of amending, during the next session of this Council, 'The Building Act, 1884,' in the following particulars, viz.: to regulate the subdivision of building lots, to secure a sufficient yard-room to ensure proper sanitary arrangements, to secure proper ventilation in each room of a dwelling house, that all ground floors of dwelling houses be raised sufficiently to admit of a free current of air passing underneath, and generally as to the advisability of increasing the power of Municipal Councils over the erection of all buildings." In going about Perth he witnessed buildings going up that were unfit for occupation, and crowding of houses on small areas of land. He had one spot in his eye, the area of which was about seven-eighths of an acre, and upon it there were no less than thirteen dwelling houses; and there were other places going up which evidently would afford very little yard-room—certainly not enough to ensure anything like proper sanitary arrangements. This state of things appeared to him likely to increase unless prompt measures were taken to put a stop to it. His attention had been drawn to the subject particularly on reading a paper by Mr. Teece, the eminent actuary, who, upon an analysis of the death rate in Sydney and its suburbs, found that

the mortality in the suburbs had increased 75 per thousand, while in the city itself, with improved sanitary arrangements, the death rate was rather decreasing than otherwise. The increasing mortality in the suburbs of the city Mr. Teece attributed to the impossibility of providing adequate sanitary arrangements. It appeared to him (Mr. Randell) that we were just beginning to arrive at that stage here, and that it behoved us to take action in time, and avoid as far as possible the causes which in Mr. Teece's opinion contributed to the increase of mortality in the suburbs of Sydney. He regarded the matter as a very important one, and he trusted that during the recess the Government would be able to cause inquiry to be made into the subject, and that next session they would be prepared with some measure of the character which he had indicated in his resolution.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he had listened with some attention to what had fallen from the hon. member, and was glad to find that a question of this importance, as affecting the interests of the community, had attracted the attention of some person of some influence. Unless such matters were attended to, and taken in hand by someone who had the interests of the public and the health of the city at heart, he was afraid things would simply go on from bad to worse. He had no doubt that a great deal already required to be done in this direction, as indicated by the hon. member. So far as he was concerned, he should be glad if the Government took such an inquiry in hand, and see whether something could not be done while it was yet early, and he hoped their action might result in something being done in the matter during the next session of Council.

The resolution was then put and passed.

RAILWAY TO HAMPTON PLAINS.

THE SPEAKER: Before the House adjourns I wish to mention that a difficulty has arisen as to the prorogation, in consequence of a notice given by the hon. member for York. His Excellency asked me whether I thought all the business would be concluded and the House ready to be prorogued to-morrow. I informed him that I thought all the busi-

ness would be finished tonight; but now the hon. member for York has given notice of a motion which will probably give rise to considerable discussion, and it is impossible to say when it will be concluded. Under the circumstances I do not know exactly what advice to give to His Excellency.

MR. SHENTON: I think it is a pity that such an important resolution should be sprung upon the House at such a late period. I find that the papers connected with this subject have been lying upon the table for a week. It is hardly fair towards those hon. members who have left.

MR. GRANT: I thought a resolution was already passed that no more land grant railway schemes should be entertained until we saw how the present schemes affect the interests of the colony.

MR. HARPER: I have no wish to interfere with the business of the House or to delay the prorogation. I am quite willing to withdraw the notice.

Notice withdrawn.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS DURING THE SESSION.

MR. PARKER: Sir, in rising to move the adjournment of the House on this the last evening of the session, I may say that I have been asked by members sitting on this side of the House to make a few remarks as to the manner in which the business of the House has been conducted during the session. Sir, we have had at the head of the Government in the House a gentleman who took his seat amongst us for the first time this session. We are all aware, from our own experience, how difficult the business appears when a member takes his seat for the first time, and how strange the proceedings appear, and how new everything comes to him. It is so even in the case of an ordinary member, who may be called upon to take no active part in the business of the House for some time afterwards. How much more difficult must it be to a gentleman who not only takes his seat for the first time, but also finds thrown upon him the whole onus of leader of the House and leader of the Government. When we bear in mind how well the hon. and gallant member who this session found himself in that position has conducted the business of

the House, and also bear in mind that he was a novice in parliamentary work, when we remember the admirable and lucid speech with which he introduced the Budget, the large amount of information which he presented to us on that occasion, dealing with every interest in the colony—when we bear all this in mind, we must be impressed with the fact that the hon. and gallant gentleman deserves the thanks of the House, and, not only the thanks of the House, but also the thanks of the country at large, for the admirable way in which he has conducted the business of the session. I had the pleasure of congratulating the Commissioner of Crown Lands the other evening on the work he has done, and I need say no more than it is creditable to any man to have piloted to a successful issue a new code of Land Regulations, in so short a period as six weeks. I think I need say no more with regard to that hon. gentleman. With respect to the Commissioner of Railways, that hon. gentleman is more a man of action than a man of words. He is the gentleman to whom we entrust our hundreds of thousands for expenditure upon public works, which we hope, under his skilful management, will some day recoup us this heavy outlay. I think I may say this of him—that we have every confidence in his ability and in his desire to carry on our public undertakings to a successful issue, if possible. The hon. gentleman certainly has during the present session treated us to a delightful railway trip, and entertained us with a lavish hospitality that has endeared him to us all. With regard to the hon. and learned gentleman who fills the position of Acting Attorney General, hon. members on this side of the House especially desire me on their part to thank him for his diligence and for the great care and attention with which all the business he has brought before the House has been presented to us. That hon. gentleman was called to the office he now fills only a short time before the meeting of Council. He had the whole onus of preparing the bills which the Government had to bring before us, and, not only that, he has also had all the labor of carrying those bills through the House; and, when we bear in mind that there have been some forty bills present-

ed, and successfully carried through, and when we look and see with what a variety of subjects those bills deal, and the importance of many of them, and when we bear in mind the care displayed in drafting them, and the comparative facility with which they passed through this House—when we bear all this in mind I think it will be admitted that we owe a debt of considerable gratitude to him for his labors in the interests of the colony. I think it is almost unprecedented that the Government should be able to carry that large number of bills, many of them measures of great importance, without a single bill being rejected. There was one bill, a very important bill—the Roads Bill—which was not carried to its third reading. The Government, out of consideration for the wishes of a minority of hon. members, deemed it expedient not to press that bill through its last stages this session. But no bill presented by the Government has been rejected, and that I think is certainly a subject of self-congratulation for the hon. and learned gentleman. When we look round and see on the Treasury Bench two hon. gentlemen who have been, if not born in the colony, bred and educated in the colony, and see the admirable way in which they have conducted the Government business, filling their respective positions with credit to themselves and advantage to the colony, we cannot help thinking, I imagine, that when the time comes when we shall take upon ourselves the task of self-government, that we shall find other gentlemen also, in the colony, able and willing to assist in carrying on that form of Government with credit to themselves and advantage to the country. I now, sir, move the adjournment of the House.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said, leaving his hon. colleagues to answer for themselves, he should like to say a few words in reply to what had fallen from the hon. member for Perth. The hon. member had paid him some very handsome compliments for the manner in which he had discharged his duties as leader of the Government, — compliments that were evidently endorsed, if he might say so, by the House; and he felt as if a blush were creeping over his countenance when

he listened to these compliments,—a blush that probably lingered there still. He could assure hon. members that when he first entered the House, a novice, inexperienced in parliamentary work, and undertook the duties of leader of the Government, he did so with a considerable amount of diffidence; but in a very short time, the uniform courtesy that was extended to him on all occasions removed that diffidence. It had been his endeavor, and it had been his determination on entering upon his duties—as he never could understand why there should be any strong feeling of opposition between the Government benches and the unofficial benches, because, after all, they had only one object in view, and that was the welfare of the colony—it had been his determination, so far as it would be in his power, to act on every occasion in harmony with the rest of the House. If he had succeeded, certainly his reward had been ample; and should he have the honor of occupying a seat on any future occasion—although he doubted it—he trusted he should be able to pursue the same course, and that his action would meet with the approval of the House, as he was glad to find it appeared to have done during the session now about to close.

The House adjourned at a quarter to nine o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 2nd September, 1886.

Message (No. 22): Replying to Addresses—Message (No 23): Assenting to Bills—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.